

The **BULLETIN**

OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY



"GREAT AMERICAN COCK" OR WILD TURKEY JOHN JAMES AUDUBON

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MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY
FOUNDED 1896 INCORPORATED 1914

FOR THE PROTECTION OF WILD BIRDS AND MAMMALS

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BULLETIN

OF THE

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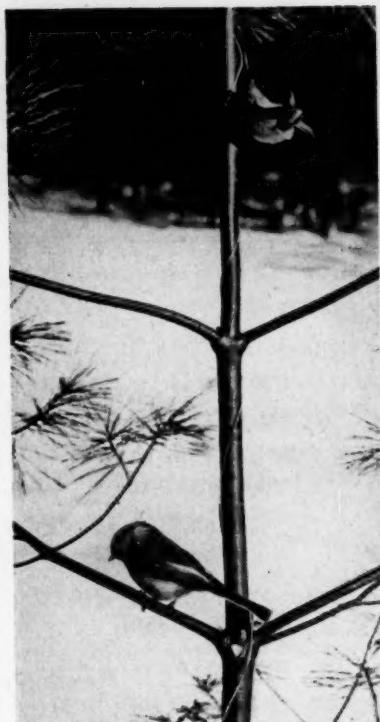
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Tit-Willow, 1951



JOHN W. WORTHINGTON

On a tree by a river a little Tom-Tit
(Created by Gilbert's incomparable
wit),

Sang a song, and who knows, born
of pleasure or pain,
But we hope it's of pleasure. Tom,
sing it again!

And keep right on singing for ages
to come,
Drop in and we'll feed you, from
suet to rum;
If worms disagree, as Sir Gilbert
suggests,
Swear off; let us have you as one
of our guests.

We'll see that your seed is the
choicest you'll find;
Peanut butter and suet I'm sure
you won't mind;
We'll see that there's water at thir-
teen below;
No matter how fiercely the North
Wind doth blow,

There'll be shelters to shield you
from morning to night;
There'll be buds fresh and plenty,
with never a blight;
No cats, hawks or weasels, we'll
keep them away,—
Just sing, Tom, keep singing.—
we'll join you each day.

LAWRENCE B. ROMAINE.

New Sanctuary in Essex County Supersedes Plum Island



The Ipswich River is a migration highway. Many interesting species have been recorded here in May by bird observers, especially the members of the Essex County Ornithological Club, on their annual river pilgrimages of the past forty years.

History was again in the making for the Massachusetts Audubon Society when, on March 23, 1951, Judge Robert Walcott, its president, took over the deed which set aside two thousand acres of the magnificent Proctor Estate in Topsfield, Hamilton, and Wenham as our newest and most impressive sanctuary. This property, which will be known as the Proctor Wildlife Sanctuary and Annie H. Brown Reservation, is situated twenty-five miles north of Boston and replaces our Plum Island sanctuary, which was taken over several years ago by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the United States Department of the Interior as a nucleus of the greater Parker River Wildlife Refuge.

On the very day of the final transaction, Elmer P. Foye, of Topsfield, long active in the Society and in the Essex County Ornithological Club, moved with his family to the farmhouse on Bradstreet Hill, which is part of the Sanctuary, to assume his duties as acting superintendent. This farmhouse, built in 1771, is in fine condition, with all modern facilities, and will serve as headquarters for the Society in Essex County.

The Bradstreet property was purchased piecemeal by Thomas Emerson Proctor, the late owner, and developed over a period of many years into a horticultural beauty spot and wildlife sanctuary. More than three thousand varieties of trees and shrubs — many rare in this region — were introduced



ELMER FOYE

Pleasant footpaths traverse the Sanctuary. Bordered by a profusion of flowering and fruit-bearing trees and shrubs attractive to wildlife, they lead to strategic bird-watching areas.

by Mr. Proctor, and this feature alone will draw great numbers of visitors annually to the Sanctuary. Also included in the property is one thousand acres of Wenham Swamp, through which the Ipswich River flows, an important point in the coastal flyway for migrants and a haven for bird life.

One of the most attractive features of the Sanctuary is a lily pond surrounded by ornamental plantings of trees and shrubs, including an extensive collection of rhododendrons, laurels, and azaleas, and bounded on one side by a grotto and rock garden.

Extensive trails cross all accessible sections of the property, and these will be open only for foot travel. A glacial esker along one edge of the marsh adds interest. Several islands are located in the swamp, Averills supporting some of the largest beeches and white pines in eastern Massachusetts. It was also on this island, according to Frank W. Benson, distinguished wildlife artist of Salem, that the last two Passenger Pigeons taken in Essex County were shot.

Proctor Sanctuary is easily reached from Boston by following Route 1 to Topsfield, then turning right (east) on Route 97, driving for half a mile to the first crossroad, which is Perkins Row, turning left on Perkins Row and proceeding a little over a mile to the stone gates which mark the entrance to the Sanctuary and the road to headquarters.

The Advisory Committee, of which Ralph Lawson, of Salem, is chairman, has already held its first meetings at the Sanctuary. The Blue Star Memorial Highway Committee has scheduled a meeting and picnic lunch at the Sanctuary for Thursday, May 10, at the height of the migration season. Audubon Day will be celebrated there on Saturday, May 12, when some of the Advisory



The fine old farmhouse, built in 1771, with its modern improvements, will serve as Sanctuary Headquarters and an educational centre.

Committee and Audubon staff members will be present to conduct visitors over the trails.

The Natural History Day Camp for boys and girls of the Essex County region, which was conducted last season at the Bradley Palmer State Park, will be transferred to the Proctor Sanctuary, where three two-week sessions in July and August will be under the direction of the Sanctuary superintendent and members of the Audubon teaching staff.

It is not surprising that congratulations on the acquisition of this outstanding tract have been pouring in at Audubon House during these past spring weeks, for, not only has this beauty spot been saved for the enjoyment of Audubon members and friends of the Society, but it will serve primarily as an Audubon educational center for all of northeastern Massachusetts.

Birds of the Proctor Sanctuary

BY LUDLOW GRISCOM

Now that the principal part of the Proctor Estate in Essex County has happily been acquired by the Massachusetts Audubon Society as a Wildlife Sanctuary, it is timely to call the attention of members to a neglected ornithological opportunity.

The new Sanctuary comprises an ideal station for the observation of birds, with the following assets: (1) unspoiled country with ample rich woods; (2) a fine arboretum, providing excellent food, and extensive conifer groves for shelter and refuge; (3) extensive meadows and marshes of Wenham Swamp and the Ipswich River, ideal habitat for marsh birds and ducks, and a regular highway for migrants.



ALVA MORRISON

One of the features of Proctor Sanctuary is the lily pond bordering a hard-wood swamp and surrounded by a naturalistic growth which includes a wide variety of rhododendrons, laurels, and azaleas.

The somewhat sketchy list appended to this article is the result of random visits over a period of twenty years with many individuals. Thanks to Ralph Lawson, I met Mr. Proctor in 1929 and received his cordial permission to visit his property for birding purposes at any time. The chief reason for its sketchiness is the lack of any work done during the breeding season in June. Moreover, in May and the autumn months this area has been "by-passed" for warblers and migrants in favor of more concentrated areas such as Nahant and Plum Island. For over forty years the Essex County Ornithological Club has had a now historic mid-May week-end canoe trip down the Ipswich River. During this trip various members have covered the Proctor Estate thoroughly on foot, and there is here a possible source of further records, provided that exact locality data have been kept.

The area has the following special features of interest: (1) Winter is a little colder and snowier than nearer the coast. On occasion it has proved quite impossible to drive on the road around the hill or visit the rocky arbor- etum and pond. (2) The production of fruit, berries, and cones is variable and irregular. Only in good years does it attract certain winter birds, and then only if there be a flight. (3) The meadows of Wenham Swamp are normally a great inland sea in spring after the thaw, the best season for ducks. The nesting meadow birds rarely arrive in numbers until after the flood has receded. (4) In the autumn the river is normally low, the meadows dry and the grass high and dense, the fall migration of water birds amounts to nothing, and these meadows are almost lifeless. In 1938, however, exceptional conditions produced superlative birding. Very heavy rains in July caused a river flood over the meadows. This rotted and killed the high grass, leaving the

meadows bare and brown in August and September. The numbers of ducks, shore birds, and herons were remarkable. (5) The river is a migration highway for nighthawks, swifts, swallows, and *marked flights of hawks*. The hill is a fine coign of vantage for listening to owls and the calls of migrating birds overhead in May. For hawk flights, choose a warm southwest wind in spring, northwest in autumn. With experience the flights can be predicted in advance. (6) The lack of extensive fields and open country makes birds of this habitat rare or unknown.

Common Loon. Seen flying over 5/6/34.
Pied-billed Grebe. Occasional spring migrant, April 8, 1945—May 6, 1928.

Double-crested Cormorant. Flock of 15 migrating north, April 16, 1939.

Great Blue Heron. Regular transient, April 3, 1941—June 2, 1950. Heard at night.

American Egret. Several in 1938.

Little Blue Heron. Uncommon transient and summer resident.

Black-crowned Night Heron. Uncommon transient, 5/5/40.

American Bittern. Regular summer resident. Often heard pumping at night.

Least Bittern. Possible rare and local summer resident. Recorded May 29—August 9, 1904, and in June, 1893, by C. W. Townsend.

Canada Goose. Occasionally migrating overhead. 3/27/32. Small flock on marsh, March, 1951 (Lawson).

Mallard. Recorded 3/29/30, 4/7/34, 9/1/38.

Black Duck. Regular summer resident, common transient, 500 on 4/27/39, 300 on 9/1/38. Have seen downy young in early May.

Gadwall. Rare transient. A pair on 3/27/32; another pair 4/12/38.

Baldpate. Seen only Sept. 1, 1938.

Pintail. Recorded 3/27/32, 4/12/38, 8/25/38.

Green-winged Teal. 2 pairs 4/19/28, pair 4/9/29.

Blue-winged Teal. Formerly rare in spring, now regular. I well remember the thrill when we found a pair on 4/19/28; again 4/6/47. There were, at least 100 Aug. 25—Sept. 1, 1938.

Shoveller. 1 male, 2 females April 16, 1939; a female 10/23/38.

Wood Duck. Regular and fairly common summer resident, from March 7 (1951) to late October.

Canvas-back. Casual, once shot there (fide Townsend).

Ring-necked Duck. Flock of 16, 4/8/39; flock of 14, 3/25/45; 1 male, 2 females,

5/5/50; a pair in the pond by the rock arboretum 5/7/49.

Golden-eye. Regular transient in early spring on flooded meadows. Late March to May 2, 1929.

Hooded Merganser. Pair on April 8, 1949.

American Merganser. Occasional in early spring on flooded meadows.

Hawk flights. Spring: Noted on 4/28/29, 4/16/33, 5/6/34, 4/16/39, 4/23/39, 4/30/39, 5/7/39, 4/30/44, 3/25/45; 11 species on 4/16/49. Autumn: 9/24/35, 26 birds in 1½ hours 9/21/49.

Goshawk. Recorded 12/11/32, 4/14/49, 9/21/49.

Sharp-shinned Hawk. Common transient, once on 1/31/33.

Cooper's Hawk. Regular transient as late as 5/27/34. Very rare in winter, but noted 1/17/32. Nest found in May, 1930.

Red-tailed Hawk. Regular transient, as early as 9/1/38; two winter records, 12/14/30 and 2/8/31, possibly same bird.

Red-shouldered Hawk. Regular transient, 2—3 nesting pairs; one of the earliest spring arrivals.

Broad-winged Hawk. Regular transient 4/28/39—5/20/39.

Rough-legged Hawk. Once, 4/16/49.

Bald Eagle. Recorded 4/12/41, 4/28/29, 4/16/49.

Marsh Hawk. Regular transient and possible summer resident.

Osprey. Regular transient, as early as 4/9/29.

Duck Hawk. Once, late April.

Pigeon Hawk. Rare, late April.

Sparrow Hawk. Regular transient.

Ruffed Grouse. Resident, nest and 10 eggs found May 15, 1932.

Bob-white. Extinct. Formerly fairly common in the Valley prior to 1905 (Lawson).

Ring-necked Pheasant. Now resident (Foye).

Virginia Rail. Common summer resident, arriving late April.

Sora. Common transient, as early as 4/19/37. Possible summer resident.

Yellow Rail. One shot in 1881 (fide Townsend); heard calling 4/30/44.

Florida Gallinule. 9/20/24 (Townsend); one seen 5/23-27/34.

Coot. Rare transient in spring. One present from 4/9-19/29; noted 4/22/34; three on 4/12/38; noted 10/1/44.

Killdeer. Probably regular migrant. One noted March 7, 1951.

Woodcock. Remarkably common summer resident. 23 heard on 4/14/46.

Wilson's Snipe. Occasional in spring 3/28/46—5/23/34.

Solitary Sandpiper. Regular transient along river. Noted as early as 5/6/39 (Ralph Lawson).

Greater Yellow-legs. Regular transient.

Lesser Yellow-legs. In 1938 only, from personal records. Also 5/20/23 (Essex County Ornithological Club); 5/10/25 (Emilio).

Pectoral Sandpiper. In 1938 only.

Least Sandpiper. In 1938 only.

Semipalmated Sandpiper. In 1938 only.

Herring Gull. Regular transient on flooded meadows.

Passenger Pigeon. Now extinct. Frank W. Benson reports that the last two of this species taken in Essex County were shot on Averills Island.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Once on June 2, 1950.

Black-billed Cuckoo. Breeds. Frequently heard migrating at night, 10 on June 2, 1950.

Screech Owl. Resident. Have heard 5 in one night.

Great Horned Owl. Resident. Have heard 2 hooting.

Barred Owl. Rare, once only on 5/12/36.

Long-eared Owl. Regularly hunting over meadows. Two birds have been seen (Emilio and Stubbs) and 5 heard in 1 night (D. Snyder).

Richardson's Owl. One seen Dec. 20, 1942, when temperature was -20°; it was being mobbed by Jays.

Saw-whet Owl. Rarely heard (Townsend and L.G.), roosting in conifers in winter suspected by droppings and pellets.

Whip-poor-will. Recorded in late May and June by Townsend; none recently.

Nighthawk. Regular evening transient over meadows. 6 on 5/24/41; 24 on 5/23/48; 20 on 6/4/40; 21 on 6/2/50.

Chimney Swift. Abundant transient over river meadows; several hundred can be seen in an hour.

Kingfisher. Occasional transient.

Flicker. Common transient and summer resident.

Hairy Woodpecker. Uncommon resident.

Downy Woodpecker. Uncommon resident.

Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker. Once 5/16/26 (Essex Co. Ornithological Club).

Kingbird. Summer resident; noted 5/8/38.

Arkansas Kingbird. Once on Nov. 13, 1938 (Dr. and Mrs. Richard Tousey).

Crested Flycatcher. Noted 5/8/38.

Phoebe. Breeds regularly on old boat houses.

Alder Flycatcher. Possibly this species on 5/15/32, not a Least.

Wood Pewee. Summer resident.

Tree Swallow. Breeds; abundant transient, arriving in late March.

Bank Swallow. Transient; noted as early as 4/27/39.

Barn Swallow. Breeds; common transient; 500 on 5/5/40.

Cliff Swallow. Uncommon transient; noted 4/27/39, 5/24/31.

Purple Martin. Noted 5/6/28, 5/1/38.

Blue Jay. Permanent resident, irregularly common or rare in winter.

Crow. Permanent resident, absent in severe winters; the earliest spring arrival, and often seen migrating overhead in numbers.

Chickadee. Permanent resident, occasionally common in fall "flights."

White-breasted Nuthatch. Very local permanent resident and October transient.

Red-breasted Nuthatch. Irregular transient, sometimes common, noted 5/8/38.

Winter Wren. Rare transient; recorded 12/26/43 (Foye).

Prairie Marsh Wren. Local summer resident in Wenham Swamp.

Short-billed Marsh Wren. Formerly common summer resident in Wenham Swamp. Disappeared after winter mortality in 1940. Two recorded 5/23/48 (Roger T. Peterson).

Catbird. Common summer resident.

Robin. Common summer resident and transient, occasionally in winter.

Wood Thrush. Formerly unknown. First recorded as a transient 5/8/38, now regular. Found as early as 5/4/41 (Hill, Nash, and Slade). Breeds?

Hermit Thrush. Common summer resident and transient, as early as 4/8/45.

Olive-backed Thrush. Heard migrat-



ELMER FOYE

The meadows and marshes of "Wenham Swamp" are dotted with islands supporting an interesting growth of coniferous and deciduous trees. This is the part of the Proctor Sanctuary designated as the "Annie H. Brown Reservation."

ing commonly overhead at night, rarely seen on the ground.

Gray-cheeked Thrush. Rarely heard migrating overhead.

Veery. Common summer resident, often heard migrating overhead; extreme dates are 5/6/28—9/12/39.

Bluebird. Summer resident and common transient. Noted March 7, 1951.

Golden-crowned Kinglet. Rare spring, common fall, transient; rarely wintering.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Regular transient, rarely in numbers; noted as early as 4/8/45.

Cedar Waxwing. Breeds? Regular transient in late May, early June, and early fall. Flock of 10 on 4/24/38; flock of 30 on 12/14/30.

Northern Shrike. Irregular in fall, winter, and early spring. Noted 1/18/41—4/8/45.

Starling. Regrettably abundant transient. Breeds, rare or absent in midwinter. In past years there were great roosts in Wenham Swamp, estimated by Emilio and Lawson to contain several hundred thousand birds. First recorded 1919.

Yellow-throated Vireo. Formerly common summer resident along river banks,

last heard in 1928. Now very rare.

Blue-headed Vireo. Uncommon transient. Breeds regularly in tall white pine woods just outside Sanctuary.

Red-eyed Vireo. Very common summer resident. Noted as early as 5/8/38.

Black and White Warbler. Common summer resident, departing very early.

Golden-winged Warbler. Local summer resident.

Nashville Warbler. Formerly common summer resident, rapidly disappearing as its preferred habitats grow up. Now almost gone, uncommon as a transient.

Parula Warbler. Transient, noted 5/5/40 (Lawson).

Yellow Warbler. Common summer resident, noted 5/5/40.

Magnolia Warbler. Transient, noted as early as 5/8/38.

Cape May Warbler. One female seen 5/22/35, probably very rare.

Black-throated Blue Warbler. Uncommon transient. Noted 5/8/38 and 5/5/40 (Lawson).

Myrtle Warbler. Common transient. Noted as early as 4/10/33.

Black-throated Green Warbler. Common

summer resident, noted as early as 4/24/38.

Blackburnian Warbler. Breeds regularly in tall white pines just outside Sanctuary. Rare transient. Noted 5/3/41.

Chestnut-sided Warbler. Common summer resident, noted 5/1/38.

Bay-breasted Warbler. Probably regular but rare transient. One recorded by Ralph Lawson May 19, 1907.

Yellow Palm Warbler. Regular spring transient, rarely in numbers. Noted as early as 4/9/29; 25 seen on 4/27/39.

Pine Warbler. Rare transient. Noted 4/12/38. Breeds?

Oven-bird. Common summer resident.

Water-Thrush. Rare transient. Noted 5/8/38.

Northern Yellow-throat. Common summer resident.

Yellow-breasted Chat. Rare vagrant from South. Noted 5/14/23 (S. G. Emilio).

Wilson's Warbler. Four noted by Stuart K. Harris 5/23/48.

Canada Warbler. Breeds in one cool swamp, arriving as early as 5/8/38, uncommon transient, noted 5/13/30, 5/20/45, and once in late August.

Redstart. Common summer resident, noted 5/8/38.

House Sparrow. Local permanent resident, greatly decreased.

Bobolink. Rarely heard migrating over river meadows.

Meadowlark. Four wintered about Bradstreet Hill in 1950-51 (Lawson).

Red-wing. Common summer resident, departing in July; abundant spring transient.

Baltimore Oriole. Uncommon summer resident, noted 5/11/40.

Rusty Blackbird. Regular spring tran-

sient along river banks, lingering into late May. Noted 5/11/40.

Bronzed Grackle. Common transient. Breeds?

Cowbird. Transient, and uncommon summer resident.

Scarlet Tanager. Uncommon summer resident, noted as early as 5/8/38.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Regular summer resident.

Indigo Bunting. One recorded by R. Lawson May 22, 1938.

Purple Finch. A number noted flying over property in March, 1951. Flock of 60, many singing, near pool March 27, 1951 (Mason).

Pine Grosbeak. Flock on 1/26/30.

Redpoll. Recorded in winter of 1941-42, and 1947.

Goldfinch. Breeds, irregular transient.

Towhee. Uncommon summer resident.

Savannah Sparrow. Regular transient on meadows.

Junco. Occasional transient; winter?

Tree Sparrow. Occasional transient and in winter.

Chipping Sparrow. Regular summer resident.

Field Sparrow. Local summer resident.

White-throated Sparrow. Common transient; noted 5/11/40.

Fox Sparrow. Regular spring transient. In occasional flights, the woods are flooded with singing birds; no such occurrence in fall. Flights noted on 3/27/32, 3/22/41, 3/27/51, 4/2/50, 4/8/39.

Swamp Sparrow. Common summer resident.

Song Sparrow. Common summer resident, and abundant transient.

Don't Forget the State-Wide Bird Walks — May 5!

On pages 160-161 of the April *Bulletin* are listed most of the State-wide Bird Walks planned for 1951, but a few additions and last-minute changes have been brought to our attention. The Hamilton-Wenham walk will be omitted. The Danvers walk will be conducted by Bennett Keenan, meeting at the High School. The new walks are listed below.

PLACE

Amherst
Chilmark
Georgetown
Lincoln
Princeton
Williamsburg

LEADERS

Professor Lawrence Bartlett
Mrs. Lucinda P. Vincent
Miss Satira T. Stetson
Richard J. Eaton
Mrs. William J. O'Connor
Miss Nancy Bickford

RENDEZVOUS

Fernald Hall, Univ. of Mass.
Contact leader.
Contact leader.
Contact leader.
Contact leader.
Contact leader.

Every Member Add A Member

Audubon in the Florida Wilderness

BY HUGO H. SCHRODER

Photographs by the Author



Swallow-tailed Kite

greater numbers than we can today, yet there was a time during his adventures in Florida when he wrote, "The birds, generally speaking, appear wild and few — you must be aware that I call birds few when I shoot less than one hundred per day."

It was necessary, of course, for Audubon to shoot the birds he needed for his paintings, and in order to secure suitable plumages and birds in good condition he often shot a number of birds of the species he was studying before obtaining just what he needed. Many of the birds he shot, however, were also used for food for himself and his assistants, and many others were made into bird skins or anatomical specimens, either for his own collection or to be sent to European or American museums and to men of science. And because he had no modern artificial refrigeration or even modern preservatives, specimens often spoiled before their portraits could be completed, and new specimens were required for their proper rendition.

Audubon began his first trip to Florida in the fall of 1831, leaving Washington with two assistants, a taxidermist and a landscape painter. Stopping at Charleston, South Carolina, he spent some time visiting with the Reverend John Bachman. The party remained at the Bachman home until the time came for them to proceed to Florida on the schooner *Argus*.

Audubon arrived at St. Augustine on November 24, 1831. And on that day he discovered a bird which was later to be named in his honor. This was the Audubon's Caracara, and thus on his very first day on Florida soil he was rewarded by seeing this interesting bird in a region far from its present haunts on the peninsula, for Caracaras are now rarely found outside of the cattle-raising regions south of Kissimmee.*

One of the earliest of Audubon's many interesting experiences in Florida was a short trip down the Halifax River in December of that year. A cold northeaster blew most of the water out of the shallow river so that his boat became stranded on a mud flat where he and his party had to spend the entire

*See article by Mr. Schroder, "Florida's Caracaras are Dwellers of the Prairies," in the January, 1951 *Bulletin*.

What a wealth of wild bird life John James Audubon saw on his trips to the Florida wilderness more than one hundred years ago! His excursions into the Florida fastnesses, and along the Florida coast were made under extreme difficulties at times. We today travel by auto over paved highways into almost every part of Florida, but Audubon's trips were made by any means of transportation then available, and indeed often the only method feasible was by walking. At that time it was possible to see many birds in the wilds in far



Sooty Terns are as Abundant Today on the Dry Tortugas as They Were in Audubon's Time.

night, a cold and miserable one, and in the morning they were obliged to wade in waist-deep mud in order to get their boat back to shore, where they eventually abandoned it. And the only way to return to their host's home was to walk.

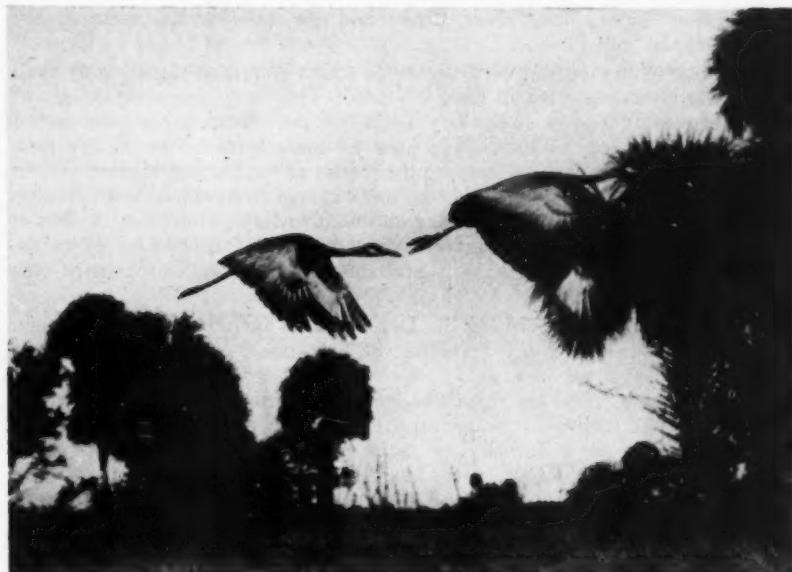
While at St. Augustine and in the regions near by, Audubon observed many of the commoner land and water birds which were so plentiful at that time. He mentions having found a Barn Owl nesting in the old fort at St. Augustine, an excellent place for these queer monkey-faced owls to rear their young. Nearly forty years later Charles J. Maynard wrote that he, too, found Barn Owls nesting in the ancient fortress.

Audubon also recorded one of Florida's rarest gulls while at St. Augustine at this time, the Great Black-backed Gull, a northern bird seldom seen so far south. Only a few existing records are known of this gull having been seen along the Florida coasts.

While exploring in this region Audubon found a large nesting colony of the Wood Ibis, and in his notes he makes mention of the plumages of these big birds. Also he writes, "To procure its food, the Wood Ibis walks through shallow muddy lakes or bayous in numbers. As soon as they have discovered a place abounding in fish, they dance as it were all through it until the water becomes thick with mud stirred from the bottom by their feet. In the course of ten or fifteen minutes, hundreds of fishes, frogs, young alligators, and water snakes come to the surface; the birds greedily swallow them until they are completely gorged."

After their visit at St. Augustine the party sailed south on the Matanzas River for a ten-day stop at the Hernandez plantation. On Christmas morning they walked to the Bulow plantation, fifteen miles farther south. What a chore we would think it if we had to walk fifteen miles nowadays!

Audubon's impressions of northern Florida were rather unfavorable. He writes, "Here I am in Florida, thought I, a country that received its name from the odours wafted from the orange groves . . . and which from my childhood I have consecrated in my imagination as a garden of the United States. A garden, where all that is not mud, mud, mud, is sand, sand, sand;



Florida Cranes Confused Audubon Who Thought Them the Young of the Whooping Crane.

where the fruit is so sour that it is not eatable, and where in place of singing birds and golden fishes, you have . . . alligators, snakes and scorpions."

In April the Audubon party proceeded on the revenue cutter *Marion* to southern Florida. There they visited various of the Florida Keys, then went on to Key West and the Dry Tortugas. On Sand Key, Audubon recorded that he shot three European Greenshanks, a species much like our Yellow-legs. As this is the only record for North America of this species, it is questioned by many authors today. But it was in this region that Audubon did discover, describe, and portray, the Great White Heron, *Ardea occidentalis*. Breeding birds at Sand Key at that time which Audubon recorded included White Ibis, Brown Pelican, Great White Heron, and various other herons, both the gallinules, and pigeons (White-crowned?). There "the flocks of birds that covered the shelly beaches, and those hovering overhead, so astonished us that we could for awhile scarcely believe our eyes. The first volley procured a supply of food sufficient for two days' consumption. Our first fire among a crowd of the Great Godwits laid prostrate 65 of these birds. Rose-colored Curlews stalked gracefully beneath the mangroves . . . and each cactus supported the nest of a White Ibis."

Near Indian Key he found Zenaida Doves breeding. The Key West Quail-Doves were also breeding at Key West at that time, but this latter bird has seldom been taken since Audubon's trip.

Parasitic Jaegers were observed on the Florida keys in April in flocks of ten to fifteen birds. The only other Florida bird, beside the Caracara, named after Audubon, is the Audubon's Shearwater, which the great bird painter saw several times. He found Flamingos at Indian Key and at Key West; these big birds are now seldom seen anywhere in Florida. He also observed Cabot's

and Roseate Terns, Man-o'-War Birds, and the Atlantic Kittiwake in the Florida keys.

Only one of the teeming bird rookeries which Audubon visited more than one hundred years ago is still regularly used. This is the immense colony of Sooty Terns and Noddies on the Dry Tortugas, and even this has been moved a short distance, for the tiny island used by these birds in Audubon's time has now entirely disappeared beneath the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. When Bird Island was finally submerged, the terns moved to others of the Tortugas group. In recent years both Bush Key and Garden Key (where Fort Jefferson was built some years after Audubon's visit) have been utilized by the birds. The tern colony on the Tortugas is probably about as large today as it was when Audubon saw it.

I had the pleasure of visiting the Dry Tortugas in 1936 and 1937. When I saw the thousands of Sooty Terns for the first time I sympathized with Audubon's account of his impressions, — "On landing I felt for a moment as if the birds would raise me from the ground, so thick were they all around and so quick the motion of their wings. Their cries were indeed deafening." Audubon tells of the sailors killing many of the Sooty Terns and of their gathering quantities of eggs, — "In less than half an hour more than a hundred terns lay dead in a heap, and a number of baskets were filled to the brim with eggs."

In Audubon's day the great tern colony was frequently raided by fishermen, "Conchs," and professional "eggers." The latter deliberately smashed every egg they found on the island, so that the birds would lay more eggs and so that on their next visit the eggers would be assured of finding only fresh-laid eggs, with which they loaded their boats for transportation to the nearest market. Now, happily, the Tortugas terns are under Federal protection and the existence of the great rookery is no longer threatened.

Audubon reported that at the time of his visit the Brown (White-bellied) Booby nested on one of the Tortugas group. This was a tiny isle, consisting of but a few acres. His account of boobies nesting there has been discredited by some modern naturalists, but the fact that he shot about thirty specimens, studying them so that he described and figured them accurately, leaves little doubt that he found them there. At the time of my own visits, I found the Booby only as a non-breeding visiting bird at the Tortugas.

The Yellow-billed Tropic-bird is infrequently reported from Florida waters. Audubon found a flock of eight or ten at the Tortugas.

On his trip from Key West to the Tortugas, White-crowned Pigeons were seen along the way, but none were found at the Tortugas. On the return trip numbers of them were found breeding on one of the keys. Thirty-six were collected one day and seventeen more the next day.

That interesting and unusual bird, the Limpkin, Courlan, or "Crying Bird," was seen by Audubon and included among his Florida paintings. In his notes he describes its nesting habits and its feeding, and gives a good account of its behavior.

Audubon's notes tell of experiences with many other Florida birds; many of these birds are still well known to present-day residents of Florida and to visitors who are able to cover more of the peninsula in a week than Audubon saw in all the time he spent in the region. But Audubon probably took greater pains to record what he saw than any of the more recent visitors.

Perhaps if we did not have modern paved highways into all parts of Florida we would have a better appreciation of the wild bird life there. Only the dyed-in-the-wool bird observers of today will attempt to invade the kind of bird nesting-colonies which Audubon saw. Most of our present-day observations are made from the comfort of an automobile seat on the smooth paved highway, rather than from the interior of a rookery, where it is necessary to walk and to wade through swamps, marshes, saw grass, or mangrove jungles.

Audubon had the true spirit of the pioneer. And he had the determination and boundless energy necessary to visit the wild regions where it was extremely difficult to get around. His work with birds in the wilds, noting their habits and securing his remarkable paintings, was a worth-while contribution in many ways.



The Limpkin, or "Crying Bird"

Notes from Our Sanctuaries

PLEASANT VALLEY. February is the month when we really count on a good snowfall, but there has been very little snow this year, and most of that has fallen only to be immediately converted into slush. The flocks of birds have remained about the same size, the Juncos and Tree Sparrows numbering roughly about twenty, thirty plus Chickadees, almost a dozen Blue Jays, several Downies, one female Hairy, and a White-breasted Nuthatch. Once a female, or perhaps immature male, Purple Finch dropped in to feed, and also a single Starling and a House Sparrow appeared for the record. The day that Hal Harrison visited us there was a flock of about thirteen Cedar Waxwings in the locusts in front of the house. Ruffed Grouse walk through the yard in the early morning hours and sometimes have been seen feeding in or under the high-bush cranberry. This beautiful berry remains untouched through the winter except for an occasional attack by the Grouse. Three weeks ago I cut some of these berries and placed them on the porch feeder on the floor. Nothing has touched them and today they look just as they did then. Not even mice and squirrels have shown any interest.

After observing the Grouse under the cranberry, I thought I might tempt them into feeding there regularly by putting feed out. The Grouse never did find the food, but our flock of Jays came and so did a pair of Crows. This was a surprise, because the Crows have never come so near the house before in spite of all the good things to eat that are always available. The method by which the Crows got this food was interesting. They never fed together. Both Crows would mount to the top of a dead pear tree overlooking the scene. After a careful survey in every direction one Crow would circle down to the feeding spot, leaving his companion to stand guard. Never have I seen the guard relax his vigil and come down to join his friend for a bite. Whenever I came to the window, I was spotted and the feeding Crow would immediately fly off.

Blue Jays are beautiful birds and have very interesting, intelligent behavior. Many people complain to me that they dislike Jays because they keep other birds from the feeders, they have a disagreeable scream, and, furthermore, they kill baby birds. First of all, let me say that I like Jays. They add a lot of sparkle and interest to the feeding stations. My Juncos, Tree Sparrows, Chickadees, and others dine well in spite of the Jays whom they fear. In varying degrees each species coming to the feeding stations interferes with the others, but all get plenty of food, even though they may have to wait. The harsh call of the Jay is only one of a great variety of calls, some of which are musical and some even amusing. My last two assistants here have been interested in birds and would have been greatly insulted if anyone had suggested that they didn't know the Jay's calls. But each of them learned that there were many calls which they had never realized Jays were responsible for. Lastly, it is true that Jays eat baby birds, but this is a natural condition and I don't think it is anything we should wish to interfere with. When a pair of Robins raise eight young in the course of the summer, on the average only two of those birds will return to nest the next year if nature's balance is to be maintained. The Jay has his place in the scheme of things, and although he annoys me when he announces my presence to the wild things when I am trying to sneak along quietly, or when he takes all the peanut butter out of the holes in the log almost before I have finished my rounds, I can't help but like him just the same.

In the recent thaws the Beavers have been very active at the north end of the Sanctuary. The brook is crisscrossed with trees that have been dropped, from one bank to the other. The Beavers come right out on the snow and ice and cut down trees and eat them on the spot. All I can say is, I'm glad I don't have to eat my supper barefooted on ice and snow. I have for some time been looking for some good Beaver tracks to photograph, but this clumsy rodent seems to shuffle along and wipe out his trail with his tail. However, a couple of weeks ago I found some good tracks frozen in the ice. Here the Beaver had walked across the slushy surface of the pond one rainy night, and then this had frozen, and with wind-blown snow in the tracks they really showed up beautifully against the gray ice.

Now spring doesn't come in February, but there are certain signs of its approach even in the bird world. On a warm morning the Nuthatch will give his rolling yodel, and on several occasions this month I have come out early in the morning and heard a Downy Woodpecker giving his fast drumming call on some dead limb. After a moment's pause, interrupted only by the tinkling spring song of the Tree Sparrows in the still-dormant forsythia, an answering drumming was heard from the other side of the valley. Back and forth across Pleasant Valley, from one hillside to the other, these tiny drummers send their messages. I wonder what they are saying.

With the arrival of March, all nature seems to be stirred from its winter lethargy. Birds begin to move slowly northward, pussy willows and skunk cabbages come into blossom, and, finally, when the last ice is off the pond, Peepers begin their shrill chorus. Beavers emerge from their winter imprisonment in the ponds and are avid for fresh tender bark. Likewise the Beaver's little cousin, the Muskrat, will be seen in broad daylight enjoying a green shoot or tuber as it sits on the edge of the pond. Birders, too, get the urge to be on the move and begin to visit the Sanctuary in ever-increasing numbers.

The month of March was generally milder than usual at Pleasant Valley, and the very first day saw the arrival of a single Fox Sparrow, almost a month ahead of my first record for last year. This large sparrow combines a beautiful blending of gray and chestnut colorings. It loves to scratch vigorously in the litter of the forest floor like a small chicken. When the Fox Sparrows first arrive they won't come near the house except to scratch on the ground, but as they become more familiar with these man-made surroundings, and see that no harm comes to them, they come right up to the window feeders. I have even had a Fox Sparrow serenade me as I ate my breakfast. The song is really very beautiful and reminds one somewhat of the Purple Finch. It is a thrilling experience to visit here in late March and hear from every bush and thicket the tinkling of Tree Sparrows, the metallic trill of the Junco, and the singing of Purple Finches and Fox Sparrows — a regular fringillid chorus.

Although Robins were reported off and on all winter, we didn't observe our first on the Sanctuary until March 7, and then we saw eight or more. On this same day I also flushed my first Black Ducks from among the flooded alders by one of the beaver dams. The ducks seem to follow the receding of the ice. Less than a week later I saw my first pair of Wood Ducks.

On March 12 our pair of Red-shouldered Hawks returned, and they have been seen almost daily since that time. Every year these magnificent flyers soar and circle over Pleasant Valley, for they nest here regularly, often in the same tree. In 1947 they nested high up in a large birch tree on the Great Hemlock Trail. The next year they nested in a tall ash beside the road, and in 1949 they returned again to their birch. Last year they selected a new nest site that I was unable to discover. The hawks have a habit of decorating the edge of the nest with a sprig of green hemlock or pine which is often a big help to the watcher on the ground.

At this time of year the Sanctuary begins to be stirred by preparations for the more active seasons ahead. The grounds around the cottage undergo a thorough grooming. Trails have to be cleared of limbs and trees that were blown down in the winter storms. Bridges have to be repaired and sometimes replaced if they are washed out by the spring floods. Trail markers have to be reset or made anew.

One of the major operations this last winter was a concerted effort to improve the Nature Trail, which, owing to the press of other business, has been somewhat neglected in years past. All the old signs were carefully gone over. Many were discarded and others repainted and freshly lettered. New signs are being made to replace old ones, and some entirely new ones with pictures of birds and animals painted on them have been completed. It is hoped that in time Pleasant Valley may have one of the very best of Nature Trails.

The other major project of the winter was work on new exhibits for the Trailside Museum. We want the visitor to drop in regularly at the museum and to expect something new each time. This year a new relief map was made which shows not only the hills and valleys, streams and ponds, but the trails, the buildings, and particularly the vegetation types. Mrs. Elizabeth Stickney is working on a new mural to help the beginning bird student know what to look for before he turns to his Peterson or other reference for help. Arrangements have been made to have an exhibit of the very fine Beaver pictures by W. J. Schoonmaker and of bird photographs by Hal H. Harrison. There will be other loan exhibits too.

ALVAH W. SANBORN

ARCADIA. A few days in March held out the promise of spring, but there was little fulfillment of the promise. The Song Sparrows returned but sang very little. The Bluebirds were back on the 16th, but they, too, found the weather too wintry to warm their voices and behavior. The waterfowl minded not the coolness and the rains. A duck is happiest in a pouring rain. During the month Blacks were in considerable number (up to 120), we had our customary "several" Mallards, also at least one Baldpate on the 27th, one or two Pintails on the 20th and 27th, and two Green-winged Teal on the 24th. The Great Blue Heron returned to the Marsh on the 24th, and during the last several days of the month Ring-necked Ducks were in the Marsh and Oxbow, Professor Eliot getting a high count of twenty-two on the 31st. Our spring would be incomplete without the show of American Mergansers in the Oxbow. They were there, twenty-five of them, as early as March 6, and remained throughout the month. Five Hooded Mergansers were recorded there also on March 27.

From 2:15 to 2:45 on the afternoon of March 24, as the weather changed, migrant hawks were noticed passing over the Sanctuary on a broad front. Some were so far to the west that they could not be identified as to species. Davis Crompton was visiting at the time, so there were several pairs of eyes to scan the broad horizons. The species observed were Goshawk, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Duck Hawk, the Red-tails being in greatest force, with thirty-five counted. Our first Marsh Hawk was noted on the last day of the month, a fine male.

The Purple Finches were in considerable numbers at the feeders during the first part of the month, but they seemed to diminish as it progressed. Evening Grosbeaks did not visit the Sanctuary, although Jerry Watrous, in Northampton, had as many as fifty at his apparently favored location.

Cleaning out the Wood Duck boxes is an interesting spring chore, because you never know what you will find in them. Unfortunately, Gray Squirrels were occupying several, and in one we found completely naked babies two inches long. Two other boxes were housing single Screech Owls, in both cases in the gray phase. They apparently had not begun to nest on March 24, the date the Wood Duck boxes were examined. One of these birds was found to be at least six years of age, his banding record showing he was banded as an adult five years ago.

Arcadia bows deeply to Cook's Canyon for a gift of poles, on which have been erected ten Kinney Tree Swallow houses. So far we have seen only one Tree Swallow, on March 31, but these houses are ready and waiting. The already established nest boxes were cleaned out on March 31, one of them showing signs of nest-building by a pair of Bluebirds.

Further additions to the collection of wildlife food and cover plants are to be made this spring. For some of the material we are again indebted to the Soil Conservation Service. Earle Thomas, of Holyoke, donated for the background of the Grange Memorial Planting three falsecypress (*Chamaecyparis*). Still other trees and shrubs will be moved to permanent sites from our own nursery.

For a new and somewhat different electric game, which it is anticipated will pique the curiosity of both adult and young visitors this coming season, we were very fortunate indeed to be given a Great Horned Owl head in bas-relief, modeled and cast in permastone by Mrs. Hugh Tatlock, of Northamp-

ton. The wise old owl's eyes will shine forth when a correct answer is chosen, turning the bas-relief into a most realistic Great Horned Owl.

EDWIN A. MASON

MOOSE HILL. As another great bird migration gradually got under way at the Sanctuary during March, it was a particular pleasure not only to witness the arrival of brightly-plumaged newcomers from the South but also to hear many of the winter residents break into song. Always arresting and never tiring to the ears of either bird expert or novice were the sweet whistles of the Chickadees with their generous rendering of encores. Mourning Doves, Purple Finches, and Juncos were other notable wintering birds whose songs blended well with the vernal notes of the oncoming Bluebirds, Phoebes, and Song Sparrows. Still to be seen on the latter days of the month as they industriously rummaged among the sodden leaves were the handsome Fox Sparrows, and on at least two occasions these were observed patronizing the office window feeder. The male Goldfinches were beginning to display a suffusion of yellow about the head and sides in token of the brilliant color contrasts already on the way.

On the still chilly night of the 20th there was heard on Moose Hill the thin high notes of the first of the Spring Peepers, or Hylas. Coming within a few scant hours of the vernal equinox, it was indeed a prophetic prelude to the change of seasons. On succeeding warmer nights, as more and more Hylas joined the amphibian chorus, the advent of spring could in no wise have been proclaimed more emphatically. After much persistent stalking, one of our summertime Day Campers, Illar Muul, succeeded in wresting one of the Peepers from its protective habitat. When viewed by visitors in his present museum terrarium, there is always the impression of surprise created by the discrepancy between size and voice in this pygmy palustrian piper. Salamanders likewise responded to the lengthening days, and in the science classrooms on our teaching schedule, as well as at the Sanctuary, these tailed amphibians have been making their appearance.

Twice during the early part of the month we were tendered generous contributions of Springtails, or "Snow Fleas," (*Collembola*) that observant trail-hikers picked up from the surface of the snow as they catapulted about in myriad numbers. Although seldom seen because of their minute size, these wingless insects never fail to arouse interest when seen against a background of white snow. Further evidence of insect activity during the warmer days was the emergence of the Mourning Cloak and the delicate Spring Azure butterflies from among the leafless trees. On the surface of our near-by lily pool, the Whirligig Beetles and the Water Striders were observed describing sweeping arcs and polygons.

Since the sunny morning of the 20th, a twosome of Chipmunks has been seen almost daily scampering along the top of the stone walls about Sanctuary headquarters with a swiftness and nimbleness of foot that bore not the slightest indication of their recent awakening from a long period of inactivity.

Lest it be thought that spring has come only to the out-of-doors, it might be said that the Sanctuary office has also blossomed out in vernal colors. Now resplendent with a new ceiling of tile board and side walls of avocado green, with a paneling of Audubon Song Bird wall paper over the fireplace, the renovation of the office was largely a home talent enterprise that has elicited much favorable comment. Assisting mightily in the task of removing

the multitudinous layers of old paper was a volunteer quartet of strong-armed Moose Hill Day Campers from Foxborough.

ALBERT W. BUSSEWITZ

COOK'S CANYON. Ornithologically, March was a full month, for the winter birds were still with us and the spring migrants were just beginning to arrive. The Juncos, Tree Sparrows, and Purple Finches returned to the feeders in numbers in bad weather, and a walk through the evergreens along Goose Feather Trail revealed the presence of Golden-crowned Kinglets. The erratic, nomadic Evening Grosbeaks are at last added to the Sanctuary's annual list, for on the 1st of March four of them condescended to perch in a maple, but, fickle, they declined to partake of our sunflower seed. Flocks of Grackles and migrating Crows, as well as Red-wings and Starlings, came at night to roost in the coniferous groves, and just at dusk on the 26th the rasping call of the Woodcock pierced the stillness of the evening. Flocks of Bluebirds were seen in the region on the 25th, and on the 27th two Red-shouldered Hawks were observed circling and calling above headquarters.

The snowy days of the 22nd and the 23rd enticed two new species to the Sanctuary's banding traps. It was fun to band the Cowbirds, but the real thrill was created by the appearance of a beautiful female Sparrow Hawk. She entered one of the traps where a male Purple Finch was feeding and promptly prepared to dine. Lest the reader think ill of the Kestrel, we refer him to the studies of the Department of Agriculture which show that less than nine per cent of this hawk's food consists of small birds, while over twice as many rats and mice are eaten, and the principle item of food is insects. Having been banded, the Sparrow Hawk was photographed in the yard, and then, suddenly realizing that she was free, she left swiftly and has not again disturbed our traps.

Construction for the 1951 season is at last under way, because of the generosity of Dr. Roger Kinnicutt, of Worcester, Mrs. James F. Nields, Jr., of Hardwick, the Barre Wool Combing Company, Ltd., and Mr. George Crompton, of Worcester, as well as through the active co-operation of the Town of Barre. The plans of the local Sanctuary Advisory Committee for a safer and more convenient entrance are at last materializing. The garage has been moved to facilitate this, and soon a bulldozer will carve out a new roadway which will be adequate for the cars of visitors as well as for the busses which transport school children to the Sanctuary. The site has been prepared for a dining hall for the resident students in the summer, and it is hoped that sufficient additional backing can be obtained to make this rather necessary addition possible for this season.

LEON A. P. MAGEE

The Hoffmann Bird Club Field Trips

The following field trips have been scheduled by The Hoffmann Bird Club of Pittsfield for the month of May. All trips leave from in front of the Berkshire Museum. In order to accommodate those arriving by bus, trips leave the Museum five minutes after the hour.

Sunday, May 6, 8:00 A. M. to noon. Pittsfield and Vicinity. Leader, Leonard Schweitzer.

Sunday, May 13, 7:00 A. M. to noon. Pleasant Valley Sanctuary. Leader, Alvah W. Sanborn.

Saturday, May 19, all-day trip. Time and other arrangements to be announced.

Through Our Binoculars at Crane's Beach

BY PRISCILLA HALE AND WALLACE BAILEY



HUGO H. SCHRODER

The Least Tern Nests on Bare Ground a Little Above Normal High-Water Mark.

To combine business with pleasure is every man's ambition, and when your business is birds and your pleasure involves a luxurious bright blue day at the beach, there is probably no spot on the entire Atlantic coast that can surpass Crane's Beach at Ipswich, a property of The Trustees of Public Reservations which they hold in trust for the public to enjoy. It's all well and good for Essex County bird-watchers to squash around on Newburyport's "squidgy squidgy" mud flats or to scratch through the briars to some penny-sized pool in the Artichoke area—doubtless you can see birds there, too. But when you can find such interesting specialties as a Royal Tern (the only one reported in Massachusetts last summer), a Bald Eagle, or a Golden Plover while thoroughly enjoying yourself hiking on the smooth expanse of clean white sand or cooling off in the sparkling salt water at Crane's, who could ask for a better place?

When you start off from the parking lot toward the distant Point, where shore birds gather by the thousands at high tide in their season, it is well to take along a picnic lunch. Even if you don't plan to make a day of it, the fresh sea air and the long hike will make short shrift of even a hearty breakfast. At first it is a temptation to take a regular dinner along, complete with wieners and a gallon jug of cool drink, but you soon learn to travel light—as light as possible, that is, which, for a birder, isn't saying very much. A telescope with its unwieldy tripod and your binocular aren't heavy at the parking lot, but three miles up the beach they weigh considerably more! The beach-buggy taxi service used to encourage laziness and overindulgence by whisking you more than half way to the Point with all the unnecessary paraphernalia and the "eats" it is so easy to bring along when transportation is mechanical. Now that the days of firmer leg muscles are here again, you must learn what to leave behind, and you will see many things which you have been missing on those speeding auto trips.

Even down near the sun-bathers, groups of Sanderlings and small sandpipers skim low over the waves. Farther on they land and scamper along the water's edge, pecking at seaweeds and tiny insects or other invertebrates. Usually these small flocks are relatively unimportant, but with a birder's ever-present optimism you will sweep them over with the glass to make sure that there isn't a stray White-rump or a Western Sandpiper among them. Still farther along the Bank Swallows circle overhead, near the sheared-off side of a dune which they have perforated with their nesting burrows.

As you approach the Point, you can see that the flat white triangle of sand is neither all flat nor all white. Large areas of it are covered with tiny shifting gray and brown dots—the birds; the small "Peeps" nearest the center, huddled on the leeward side of beach grass clumps if there is a stiff breeze, or darting to and fro in their characteristic stiff-legged scamper; the terns and plovers usually lined up along the bay side; and the gulls standing in staid, one-legged solemnity on a seaside sand bar.

If you get too interested in watching these thousands of birds on the Point, a jab from your companion may bring you back to earth just in time to avoid stepping on the three beautifully camouflaged eggs of a Least Tern. Several pairs of these tiny yellow-billed, yellow-legged terns nest during June on the dry sand among the gray-green spears of beach grass. Last year an unfortunately high tide destroyed many of the eggs, which are not protected by any real nest but are merely lying in a small hollow in the sand.

When you reach the Point proper, you will undoubtedly want to cache the lunch and the extra sweater you have been carrying and proceed with just the tools of the trade, the scope and binocular. Probably the "Peeps" (collective term for the smaller sandpipers and their relatives) will be the first in line for observation, or rather for careful scrutiny. It takes a good deal of intensive searching to distinguish some of the rarer species from the commoner ones, and to estimate their numbers. Keeping between the birds and the sun to get a better light, you start from away back, watching briefly and then stalking closer, looking again and creeping cautiously still closer. When at last you get within twenty-five or thirty feet of them (and you'll be lucky to get that close if the birds are at all restless), you'll be creeping on your hands and knees and hardly daring to breathe. You may even have to lie flat and wiggle forward an inch at a time, snakelike. But at this distance you can easily distinguish between the Semipalmated Sandpipers, their larger, grayer cousins, the White-rumps, and the Western Sandpipers. Often these groups of "Peeps" consist of as many as five thousand birds. It is both interesting and impressive to stalk such a group to within a few yards, only perhaps to have the whole five thousand go up in a whir of wings before the assault of their greatest enemy, a long-winged jaeger. But a good view of this fierce-looking, black, fork-tailed bird of the ocean is worth all the effort and skill involved in creeping up on the shore birds again. One of the high points long to be remembered was a day in August when, at any time in the afternoon, we could see from three to twelve of these jaegers chasing and darting in the sky.

Now you move on to the bay side to have a look at the terns and plovers. The Common, Least, and Roseate Terns are the most plentiful and range up to a thousand in numbers. Occasionally there are a few Black Terns, and once, the find of the season, we saw a big, black-crested Royal Tern. The Black-bellied Plovers are numerous during all the summer months, with frequently as many as fifteen hundred in a group. Their smaller, browner, more

interesting relative, the Golden Plover, is not so common and last summer did not favor Crane's Beach with an appearance until September 2. Even then it did not land, but soared over the Point whistling its harsh *queedle*. On that same day a flock of Tree Swallows sailed in; about two thousand of these small blue-black, white-breasted birds made a stopover on their way south and dipped and circled over the dunes all day long.

The circuit of the Point will be complete after you have examined the gulls. The Great Black-backed Gulls are easy to pick out by their distinguishing black saddle-back. Eight hundred of these big fellows with their sixty-five-inch wingspread make an impressive sight as they go lumbering into flight like huge bombers taking off before the days of jet-assist. The familiar Herring Gull is present in even larger numbers than the Black-back. Two little black-headed Bonaparte's Gulls made a surprise visit in August and afforded an interesting item for our monthly report.

As the receding tide deposits another meal on the birds' dinner table, they scatter widely to pick it up, and the good birding is over for another day. The hike back to the parking lot is spent in going over in our minds the species seen and noting down their numbers in our record. But still the binoculars are kept busy. Often you may see something you missed before as it goes winging down the beach. A Pigeon Hawk and a Bald Eagle, as well as the Golden Plover, were noticed on these return trips. Sometimes an interesting bird will sweep back toward the Point, and, if you have any ambition and energy left, back you trot to get a better look. If it lands among the flock, it means another exhaustive inspection, but it's worth it if you can prove to yourself or to a skeptical companion that you made a correct identification after that first brief glimpse, or to take special note of some real collector's item like the rare European Dunlin that was seen in the summer of 1949.

Even if you saw no exceptional birds on the trip, it would be a day well spent; but when you can end the summer with an impressive list of finds, as well as a beautiful tan and a heart full of sunlit memories, then it's "three cheers for Crane's Beach" and a prayer that the sanctuary may always be as lovely and restful a haven as it is now.

Fourth Annual Tour of Newton Gardens

Ten of Newton's loveliest gardens will be opened to the public on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, May 12, 13, and 14, from one o'clock to 5:30 P. M., under the auspices of the Newton Tribune Foundation, whose purpose is to "establish a living tribute in honor of the men and women who served and are serving in the armed forces of our country, by suitable plantings on Commonwealth Avenue in the city of Newton."

Three gardens in Chestnut Hill will be those of Mrs. Robert Sayles, Mrs. Arthur T. Bradley, and Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Roberts. In Newton Centre there will be a plant sale on the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph B. Jamieson, while Mr. Norman Butterfield, of the Waltham Experimental Field Station, will hold a Plant Clinic on Saturday and Monday afternoons. In Newtonville will be the wild garden of Mr. and Mrs. Orin Skinner. In West Newton, Mr. and Mrs. Fred G. Stritzinger 3rd; Auburndale, Mr. and Mrs. William J. Davidson; Oak Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Douglass Francis; Waban, two gardens, those of Mr. and Mrs. William P. Beetham and Mr. and Mrs. Norman Burchell.

Tickets may be purchased at each garden and a map of the complete Tour will accompany each ticket.

Seventh Annual Berkshire Campout

June 8 - 10, 1951

HEADQUARTERS: The Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield. Tel. Pittsfield 2-6373.

RESERVATIONS: Limited to 50 persons. Reservations should be made in advance with Alvah W. Sanborn, Campout Chairman, Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, Lenox, Massachusetts, *not later than June 2*. Cancellations are acceptable only up to June 3. See Registration Form.

FEE: Save money; register early. If registration is postmarked not later than May 27, fee is \$6.00; after May 27, \$7.00. This fee includes guide service, one night's lodging on Mt. Greylock, dinner Saturday evening, and lunch Sunday. For those attending one night on Greylock and one day only the fee is \$4.50.

TRANSPORTATION: Transportation during the Campout will be by private cars. So far as possible, transportation will be furnished for those requiring it, but cannot be guaranteed. Transportation to and from Pittsfield must be provided by the individual.

LODGING: All attending the Campout must arrange directly for their own lodging (except for Greylock reservations, for which see Registration Form), and this should be done at the earliest possible moment, as accommodations are limited. If lodging information is desired, this may be indicated on the Registration Form. For those who like to camp out, camp sites are available at Pleasant Valley Sanctuary and on top of the mountain. For those braving the rigors of a night out on the mountain, the lodging fee of \$1.00 is deductible from the registration fee.

Program

FRIDAY, JUNE 8. 5:00—7:00 P. M. Arrive at Berkshire Museum and register. "The Bicknell's Thrush" trip leaves at 6:30 to spend the night at Bascom Lodge on the summit of Mt. Greylock. Arrangements will be made for late-comers.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9. 5:00 A. M. Valley Trip, "The Worm-eating Warbler," leaves the Berkshire Museum to explore the southern part of the county. Breakfast can be obtained at 4:30 near the museum; a box lunch should be purchased. First stop will be Brielmann's Swamp. The main objectives of the day will be to find the Turkey Vultures, Worm-eating Warbler, and the Duck Hawks at Bash-Bish Falls.

The Mountain Group can obtain breakfast and lunch at Bascom Lodge. The Tall Spruces will be explored, and after lunch the lakes and marshes around Pittsfield will be visited.

5:30 P.M. Both groups meet at Pleasant Valley Sanctuary for dinner and a review of the day's "list." 6:30 P. M. The Valley Group leaves to spend the night on Greylock.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10. The group that took the Mountain Trip on Saturday will this day take the Valley Trip, and vice versa, but limited time will shorten the trips. Starting times will be the same as Saturday. At 1:00 P. M., all groups meet at Pleasant Valley Sanctuary for luncheon, following which the Campout will adjourn.

All trips will start promptly as scheduled, regardless of the weather, but may be subject to changes which will be announced at the Campout.

Everyone attending the Campout should bring warm clothing, as the nights and mornings, especially on the mountain, may be cold.

GUIDES: Robert Crane, Alvah W. Sanborn, Anne Fitz, and Elmore J. Fitz.

Registration Form

Alvah W. Sanborn, Chairman, Campout Committee
Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, Lenox, Mass.

I (We) hereby register for the BERKSHIRE CAMPOUT, June 8, 9, 10, 1951. Enclosed is (are) registration fee(s) as checked below. Make checks payable to Alvah W. Sanborn.

Entire Campout (includes lodging on Mt. Greylock)

- If postmarked by May 27, \$6.00 per person
- If postmarked after May 27, \$7.00 per person
- I wish to spend (Friday night) (Saturday night) on Mt. Greylock.

Half of Campout (includes lodging on Mt. Greylock)

- Friday night and Saturday only, \$4.50 per person
- Saturday night and Sunday only, \$4.50 per person
(Accommodations on Mt. Greylock are limited to eleven persons, consequently campers can spend only one night on the mountain. If all accommodations have already been reserved when your application is received, the fee of \$1.00 will be refunded.)
- Please send list of possible places to secure lodging.
- I can furnish transportation for extra persons.
- I desire transportation for the trips scheduled for person(s).

Name Address

Name Address

Bird Carvings to be Exhibited at Audubon House

We are happy to announce that there will be a loan exhibition of bird carvings, the work of John Templeton Coolidge, at Audubon House, 155 Newbury Street, Boston, throughout the month of May.

Mr. Coolidge is widely known for his skillful representations of birds, especially of waterfowl. Though most of his work is done direct from living specimens, he also does much preliminary field sketching, so that his carvings are extremely realistic and lifelike, and the coloring is always excellent.

We hope that many of our members and their friends will take this opportunity to visit Audubon House and to see these fine bird carvings. They will not be for sale.

Audubon Field Trips

SUNDAY, MAY 27. To Nahant Thicket and Newburyport Area. Spring migrants, late warblers, and shore birds. Chartered bus will leave Audubon House, 155 Newbury Street, Boston, at 8:15 A. M. (D.S.T.), returning to Audubon House at 7:00 P. M. Bring lunch. Fare and guide fee, \$2.75. Fee for those using private cars and following bus, 75 cents. Reservations should be made a week in advance. Cancellations cannot be accepted after noon on Friday, May 25. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Donald C. Alexander, James T. Kelly, Douglas B. Sands, C. Russell Mason, Miss Carol Parker.

From Our Younger Contributors

BY WILLIAM HEENAN, Grade Six, Greenhalge School, Lowell

Farmer Jones and Farmer Brown

Farmer Jones and Farmer Brown were both friends. And each farmer had four fields. An east field, west, south, and north field. One day Farmer Jones went out to his east field and plowed it. He plowed it the same way he had done last year and the year before that. And then he planted rows of corn. He then said, "I think I'll go over and see Farmer Brown." He looked at Farmer Brown's field but it was plowed different than last year. Farmer Jones asked him why it was. "Well," he said, "this Christmas my daughter-in-law and son came to see me, and for a Christmas present they gave me a year's subscription to this book, and it shows you some things on farming. And I plowed my field that way because it keeps the water on the field. But your field acts like a canal and the water runs down into a stream or river."

So Farmer Jones went home. The next morning Farmer Jones got up and went out to his west field and plowed it just like he did his east field. And again he planted rows of corn. And then he again went over to see Farmer Brown. But he had done his field different than last year. He plowed his field, and then put a row of corn, and then a row of hay on his field. And then Farmer Jones said, "What did you do that for?"

"Well," said Farmer Brown, "the hay acts as a strainer and holds back the water."

So then Farmer Jones went back to his farm. The next morning he got up and went down to his south field. The south field wasn't very good for growing things, because it had rocks scattered on it. So he went on plowing. When he was nearly through his horse stumbled in a gully. But Farmer Jones did not pay any attention to it.

Again Farmer Jones went over to Farmer Brown's. Farmer Brown's south field was just the same as Farmer Jones's. But when he saw what Farmer Brown had done all day, he asked, "Why did you plant trees instead of corn?"

"Well," said Farmer Brown, "I planted trees instead of corn because when the leaves fall in autumn they make humus. I saw your horse stumble in the gully, and if you take my advice you should do as I say. Plant some grass around the gully and then I will give you some little trees which I have left over."

Farmer Jones went home and did what Farmer Brown said. The next morning he got up and went down to his north field. He did what he had done the last year. And again he planted rows of corn. Then he went over to Farmer Brown's and saw that he had done his field just like Farmer Brown.

The summer went along, and when it came harvest time they picked their corn and they loaded their corn into the same truck. They didn't have to stay in town very long, because they sold their crop fast. When they got home Farmer Jones went out to his north field and plowed under the corn stocks, because he knew that they made the topsoil rich. Then he went over to Farmer Brown's to talk about the harvest, when he noticed his north field and he said, "You don't think that that will grow, do you?"

"Yes," said Farmer Brown, "that's winter rye and when spring comes you plow it under and it makes humus."

A Curious Humming-Bird

BY RONALD GOSEURICH, Ripley Road School, Cohasset

One sunny day as I was doing my paper route I happened to see a humming-bird. I stopped to watch him because I wanted to know if a humming-bird could fly backwards. Well, as he went from flower to flower he backed away from them. Now that I knew a humming-bird could fly backwards I decided to go on with my paper route.

The humming-bird must have noticed that I had a lollipop with me and came my way, he landed on it and began to peck it. I didn't know if he had a keen sense of smell or was just curious.

As the School Children See It

(Thirty-two children from the Audubon Junior Club of the Daniel Butler School in Belmont visited Audubon House recently. Their reaction is suggested by the following two letters, dated March 15, 1951.)

"Dear Ladies:— We enjoyed our visit to the House of Audubon. We liked the stamps very much. We liked the birds in the window too. Also we enjoyed the little booklets that you let us have. We liked all your things you had in your House of Audubon. Especially yours, John Simpson, Grade Four."

"Dear House of Audubon:— Thank you very much for the stamps. We are going to keep the stamps in a safe place. We may stick them on a colored paper and write under them that we have been to your place. Thank you very much for letting us come. We had a very nice time. We liked all the things you had in your place. We appreciate it very much. Sincerely, Janet Chase, Grade Four."

Is our school work popular with the children? Do they like the teachers? Here is a letter from a slightly older pupil, in Gloucester.

"Dear Miss Snyder:— Hope you are feeling fine, since the last time I saw you. I was sitting in my father's store Tuesday and happened to look out and saw you riding by. I ran out and called to you but you did not hear me. Thinking you might stop at the Fisherman's Statue I ran down as fast as I could to see if I could see you, but you were not there. Boy, was I out of breath!

Have been going down to the park every day after school. Have seen the Golden-eye, 33 Red-breasted Mergansers, 28 Black Duck, and I almost caught a White-winged Scoter, but he got into the water before I could get hold of him. I was just going home about four o'clock when I spied a good-sized seal on a rock about forty yards out. It was getting low tide and I had a crazy idea that I could catch him. I had my boots on and began to wade into the water. Just when I was going to run for him he spied me and shoved off into the water. I stood up on a rock and watched for him to come up when I saw a Black Duck coming closer and closer. He was going to land right beside me, when he saw me he swooped up. He was so close that I could hear his wings. I lost my balance and fell into the water. It was a good thing that it was not very deep.

I wish to thank you for taking us to Halibut Point Saturday. Kenney said he enjoyed it very much.

Your friend, Jeff.

P. S. Please write soon."

"So Much For So Little" It's Growing Time!

As truly as spring is a season of growth in the plant world, so is it a growing time with our membership — for the season suggests it. And we think of certain conditions of growth that apply to both. We mention but one — the right soil. Needless to say, one can be a good conservationist, a well-informed naturalist, or an ardent bird-observer without being a member of an Audubon Society. But let such an individual once ally himself with an organization equipped to carry on an extensive conservation program, and the soil in which he has taken root will multiply his effectiveness a hundred-fold through broadening his interest, increasing his information, and making him an actual participant in the work being accomplished by his organization. Do you know one or several such individuals whom we could help and who would help us?

We welcome the following new members to our growing family and salute the growing number of those who are providing increased support for the work.

Life Members

- **Brayton, Mrs. David A., Little Compton, R. I.
- *Clements, H. Everest, Rochester, N. Y.
- Webster, Miss Deborah C., Jr., Milton

Contributing Members

- Barrett, Frank Arthur, Boston
- Billings, Harold Dexter, Auburndale
- **Ellis, Miss Helen E., Westport Point
- **Fay, Henry H., Concord
- *Kaempfer, Miss Phyllis, Brookline
- Mabry, Thomas, Stockbridge
- **MacLennan, Miss Kathleen, West Somerville

Supporting Members

- *Bliss, Mrs. Henry M., Sherborn
- Boston Botany Club, Boston
- *Cochrane, Miss Jane, Wellesley
- *Cottrell, G. W., Jr., Cambridge
- Davies, Mrs. Harry C., Lexington
- Fairweather, Willis E., East Gardner
- Lehrer, G. R., West Newton
- *Lyman, Mrs. Herbert, Brookline
- *MacKenzie, Lauchlin J., Everett
- *MacLean, Albert P., Lynn
- *Sessions, Miss Jane Ann, Hadley
- *Yoffe, Mrs. E., Natick

Active Members

- Aldrich, Mrs. Mark B., Northfield
- Arnold, Willard C., Watertown
- Arnold-Hefter, Mrs. R., Natick
- Ayer, Mrs. John, Medford
- Bailey, Miss Josephine, Lexington
- Bancroft, Mrs. Herbert, Hingham
- Bancroft, Miss Jessie F., Boston

*Transferred from Active Membership

**Transferred from Supporting Membership

Barnard, Mrs. Richard D., West Boylston
Booth, Miss Marie E., Beverly

Bourne, Earle, Brighton
Bowman, Mrs. Reginald, Arlington
Boyer, Mrs. Alberta M.,

Woodstock, N. B., Canada

Braley, Miss Elizabeth, Northfield

Bryant, Miss Elizabeth, Belmont

Bryant, W. Maynard, Boston

Buchan, Miss Mary C., Boston

Burguet, Mrs. Jacques J., Worcester

Burke, Enroy S., Boston

Burnham, Roy, Winchester

Burns, Miss Mary A.,

Margaretsville, N. S.

Burrill, Mrs. Frank, Bridgewater

Call, Mrs. Arthur E., West Gloucester

Carpenter, Prof. Russell L., Somerville

Cass, Miss N. Josephine, Boston

Chapman, Mrs. H. Ryerson, Bridgewater

Chase, Mrs. James H., Jamaica Plain

Clark, Roland C., Jr., Medford

Connelly, Mrs. Gertrude L.,

South Easton

Corey, Miss Helen, Northboro

Cowan, Clinton L., Dorchester

Cramer, Miss Grace, Brookline

Dalton, Mrs. John, Wellesley

Dalton, Miss Mary, Northfield

Davenport, Mrs. Harold F.,

Bridgewater

Davidson, Mrs. Francis J., Arlington

Davidson, Mrs. Marvin M., Plymouth

Davis, Mrs. Albion R., Wellesley

Dixon, Rev. W. Edge, Allston

Dumbreck, Mrs. Robert, Northfield

Dunphy, Mrs. John J., Dorchester

Edmunds, Mrs. Ernlin,

New London, N. H.

Ellis, Mrs. Raymond W., Marblehead

Engel, Albert G., Jr., Medford

- Eppinger, Mrs. Eugene C., Chestnut Hill
 Esau, Miss Ellen B., Boston
 Farley, Arthur H., Boston
 Farley, Mrs. Arthur H., Boston
 Farr, James F., Cambridge
 Feronetti, James, Topsfield
 Ferre, Mrs. Albert, Wellesley
 Fraser, Mrs. Alice T., Babson Park
 Gibson, Miss Madelyne A., Boston
 Gordon, Earl A., Pittsfield, Maine
 Granger, Mrs. L. Dwight, Warren
 Greene, Mrs. Ellen Hunt, Worcester
 Griffin, Mrs. Herbert W., Plymouth
 Griswold, William, Belmont
 Guild, Joseph, Dedham
 Gulick, M. B., Boston
 Gummere, Mrs. James E. T., Worcester
 Ham, Mrs. George E., Arlington
 Hardy, Robert S., Topsfield
 Harris, Mrs. Hilda L., North Andover
 Harris, Mrs. Lawrence, Melrose
 Hewitt, Mrs. John H., Newton Highlands
 Holmes, Mrs. Roland T., Plymouth
 Howes, Miss Linda, Boston
 Hudson Public Library, Hudson
 Hull, Mrs. Raymond, Ipswich
 Ingraham, Mrs. Alward, Brookline
 Jackson, Samuel R., Newton Center
 Johannsen, Miss Anna W., Boston
 Johnson, Mrs. Carl E., South Easton
 Johnson, Mrs. Joseph, Bridgewater
 Jones, Mrs. Cyrus, Plymouth
 Judd, Mrs. Floyd R., Melrose
 Kelley, Mrs. Crosby B., Melrose
 Knotts, Edward J., Jr., Brookline
 Lane, Miss Marion Haven, Newton
 Lawrence, Mrs. Ted, Northboro
 Lee, Sen. Richard H., Newton
 LeShane, Mrs. James G., Allston
 Linton, M. Albert, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Livermore, Robert, Jr., Boston
 Longe, Mrs. Everett, Westboro
 Martell, Miss Margaret B., Needham
 Massey, Mrs. Robert K., Worcester
 McNeeland, Mrs. Fred A., Bridgewater
 Meredith, Mrs. Irving, Milton
 Merriam, Mrs. Clifton, Pelham, N. H.
 Monroe, Mrs. Merle, Easton
 Moore, Miss Annette A., Buffalo, N. Y.
- Page, Edward, Medford
 Park, Mrs. Charles, Marshfield
 Parker, Mrs. Willis, Northfield
 Parmenter, Mrs. Paul E., Northboro
 Pearson, Charles, Waban
 Petersen, Mrs. Laurence F., Acton Centre
 Phillips, Mrs. Austin C., Easton
 Pinard, Mrs. W. J., Brookline
 Pope, Miss Ethel M., Whitinsville
 Prigge, Mrs. Esme, Stoneham
 Putnam, Miss Adelaide, Wellesley Hills
 Ramsey, Mrs. Webster K., Worcester
 Reid, Ralph A., Beverly
 Rickard, R. D. S., Ithaca, N. Y.
 Rideout, Mrs. Clifford A., North Easton
 Rogers, Mrs. George E., Lexington
 Rogers, Mrs. Horatio, Newton Center
 Rohrbough, G. I., Boston
 Sargent, Mrs. Dana E., Jamaica Plain
 Saville, Edward, Medford
 Seavers, Mrs. Charles F., Jamaica Plain
 Sebring, Miss Emma G., Williamstown
 Sherman, Miss Ethel E., Miami, Fla.
 Sherwin, Miss Helen, Boston
 Sibley, Mrs. Richard A., Ashby
 Siebeneicher, Mrs. A. R., Jamaica Plain
 Stoddard, Herbert L., Sr., Thomasville, Ga.
 Talbot, L. Raymond, Wellesley Hills
 Tener, Richard S., Topsfield
 Teuten, Harry, Rockville Centre, N. Y.
 Thompson, Miss Edna, Watertown
 Ticknor, Mrs. Donald, Plymouth
 Tolman, Miss Mary H., Gloucester
 Trevor, Mrs. Frederick, Melrose
 Tucker, Mrs. Donald, Lexington
 Turner, Howard M., Marblehead
 Van Gelder, Mrs. C. P., Woodbury, N. J.
 Vorce, Mrs. Martin E., Northfield
 Wadsworth, Mrs. Ralph, Northboro
 Walker, Mrs. Louise W., Brewster
 Walsh, Mrs. James G., Jamaica Plain
 Weeks, Glenn A., Greenfield
 Wirth, Mrs. Jacob, Boston
 Wisner, Mrs. R. R., Newton Highlands
 Wood, Miss Eunice M., Wellesley
 Wylie, Mrs. Emmons F., Arlington
 Yerex, Mrs. Hugh V., Boston

Photograph Exhibitions in Albany

As announced in the January *Bulletin*, the New York State Museum is planning a series of Photographic Salons, which began in April, with Wild Birds as the subject, and which will continue at intervals through March, 1952.

From June first to July thirty-first the subject will be Flowers, wild or cultivated, and either black and white or color photographs may be submitted. From August first to September thirtieth the pictures will be limited to views of scenery in New York State. There is no entry fee.

For complete details write W. J. Schoonmaker, New York State Museum, Albany, N. Y.

Needed! — Things New and Old

The recent purchase of the beautiful Proctor Sanctuary in Essex County affords an excellent opportunity for members and friends of the Society to establish small memorials similar to those which have been provided at other Audubon properties. Furnishings for rooms, in full or in part, will make possible the efficient operation of a Sanctuary office, housing for teachers and guests, and day camp facilities. Immediate needs include the following:

Sanctuary Office (enclosed porch) and Entrance Hallway

Rugs, sizes 12 x 14 and 5 x 7 (maximum).

Flat-top Desk and Desk Chair

Side Chairs

Folding Chairs for Group Meetings

Four-drawer Steel Letter File

Table

Cabinet for the Dyke Bird Skin Collection

Teachers' Apartments and Guest House

Single Beds and Mattresses

Dressers, Tables, Chairs

Natural History Books for Reference Library

Canoes for River and Marsh Investigations

Bird Feeders, Birdhouses, Bird Baths

Small Tractor to aid in Maintenance of Grounds

Brush Hooks and Pruning Shears

The Sanctuary Committee will also greatly appreciate it if members will look through their attics and storage rooms to see whether they may have suitable surplus furnishings and equipment for the Proctor Sanctuary. Funds for the purchase of needed articles will be most welcome.

Merrimack Valley Bird Club — May Walks

Oscar M. Root, President of the Merrimack Valley Bird Club, announces the following spring walks to be sponsored by the Club, and a cordial invitation to attend these walks is extended to all who are interested.

Saturday, May 5, Harold Parker Forest, Andover. Joint walk with the Brookline Bird Club. All day, bring lunch; or part of day as desired. Meet at State Police Barracks on the Andover by-pass at about 9:15.

Saturday, May 12, Leland's Woods, Great Pond Road, North Andover. Meet at 7:00 A. M. at North Andover Country Club.

Wednesday, May 16, Proctor Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield. Leave North Andover Center (Phillips Brooks statue) by car promptly at 4:00 P. M.

Wednesday, May 23. Meet at residence of Paul H. Leslie, 30 Summer Street, Methuen, 4:00 P. M.

South Shore Bird Club Field Trips

Sunday, May 6, starts at 7:00 A. M. Trip to Braintree and Milton. Leader, Joseph Ulman.

Sunday, May 13, starts at 8:00 A. M. Milton and South Shore. Leader, Donald Whitehead.

Saturday, May 19, starts at 7:00 A. M. Mt. Auburn, Cambridge. Leader, Robert Fox.

Saturday, June 2, starts at 8:00 A. M. Plymouth Beach. Leader, Donald West.

All trips leave from parking space behind Adams Academy, Quincy, and are for all day. Remember to bring a lunch. Recorder for the Club is Sibley Higginbotham, Wollaston and Secretary is Miss Vera Call, Quincy.



RAYMOND J. MIDDLETON, JR.

Flash! "Mill Grove" to be an Audubon Shrine

We have just received a letter from our fellow member, Raymond J. Middleton, long-time President of the Norristown (Pennsylvania) Audubon Society, announcing the acquisition by the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners of "Mill Grove Farm," the estate on Perkiomen Creek near Norristown which was Audubon's first home when he came to America as a lad of eighteen in the autumn of 1803. The property, which includes the old stone house built in 1762 and purchased in 1789 by Audubon's father, Captain Jean Audubon, will be preserved as a County, State, and National shrine, museum, and bird sanctuary.

For a brief account of Audubon's days at Mill Grove we would refer our readers to the article "Audubon's Threshold Years" in the *Bulletin* for February, 1951. Mr. Middleton writes that the transaction "was accomplished mainly thru the efforts of one of our members who is President of the Valley Forge Park Commission, Mr. Norris D. Wright. . . I have dreamed of something like this for years but never thought I would actually see it come to pass."

Of additional interest in connection with Mill Grove is the fact that John Penn, a descendant of William Penn and the last colonial governor of Pennsylvania, bought the estate in 1776 but resold it a few years later. The lead mine on the property was the source of bullets for the Continental Army, and Mill Road, which runs through the estate, was an historic road leading to a ford on the Perkiomen, over which supplies were carried to Washington's winter encampment at Valley Forge, a few miles away.



Part of the Audubon Exhibit at the Peabody Museum

More Exhibits for "Audubon in Massachusetts"

One of the finest of the many displays arranged in connection with the "Audubon in Massachusetts" program initiated by the Massachusetts Audubon Society is that of the Peabody Museum of Salem, where Miss Dorothy E. Snyder, of the Audubon educational staff, is Curator of Birds and assisted in the planning of the exhibit.

The exhibit is in three divisions. One section includes some forty of the original large elephant folio engravings, hand-colored, from the first edition of Audubon's *Birds of America*. Audubon secured about twenty subscriptions to this great work from eastern Massachusetts, and the Peabody Museum's set is that subscribed for by Miss Elizabeth Pickman, of Salem.

A large display case in the natural history room contains an exhibit of extinct and vanishing species, part of which is shown in our illustration. Two framed labels describe them tersely: "1830, Audubon Knew Them," and "1950, Gone Forever." From left to right are the Labrador Duck, which became extinct about 1877 and which Audubon possibly saw on his Labrador excursion in 1833; the pair of birds shown in his painting were presented to him by Daniel Webster and were probably shot by the latter off the Massachusetts coast. Next is the Passenger Pigeon, which in Audubon's day "darkened the sky" at times but which became extinct in 1914. Two other birds which were common in Audubon's time were the Carolina Paroquet and the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, the former "gone forever" and the latter represented by probably less than a half score of survivors and doomed to early extinction. The right-hand case shows one of the few existing skeletons of the flightless Great Auk, a species which Audubon never saw in the flesh and which became extinct during his lifetime. Not shown in our illustration is the Eskimo Curlew, once a favorite "game bird" for Essex County gunners, but now listed among the vanished species.

The third section of the exhibit illustrates, by books and prints, the development of bird portraiture through the centuries and the influence of Audubon in that development, for Audubon was the first bird painter to show birds in natural poses and in their accustomed habitats.

1951 Natural Science Workshop 1951**Cook's Canyon Wildlife Sanctuary****Barre, Massachusetts****CAMP COUNSELORS — TEACHERS — YOUTH LEADERS**

COURTESY BOSTON GLOBE

"Cap'n Bill" Vinal leads a field trip at the Audubon Workshop.**FIRST SESSION**

June 14-27

SECOND SESSION

July 1-14

The Workshop offers camp counselors, teachers, and others interested in nature, a brief but co-ordinated course in natural history and conservation. The recognition of birds and other animals, plants, and common minerals, their interrelationships and importance to man, and methods and techniques of interesting others will be emphasized.

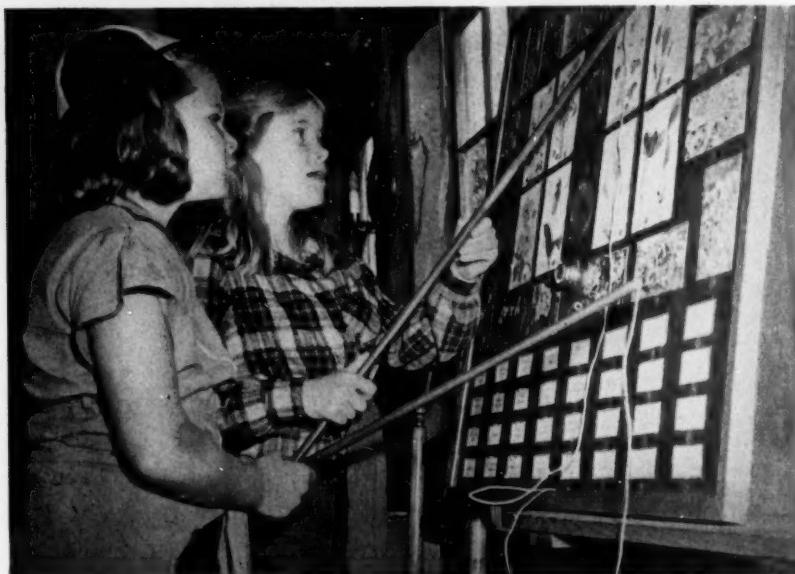
Circulars describing the Natural Science Workshop will be mailed on request, or call to discuss this feature of our Audubon program, at

Audubon House**155 Newbury Street, Boston 16, Massachusetts**

1951 Wildwood Nature Camp 1951

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As the Sparrows Pass By

BY GLADYS H. SCHUMACHER

Every spring and fall I look forward eagerly to the sparrow migration in the Berkshires. I am very fond of the little brown mites, difficult though they are to identify at times. Perhaps it is because they feed on or near the ground, where one can see and study them once you know they are there, and do not hide themselves to the tops of the tallest trees as do the warblers.

There is no sweeter music than the first chorus of Song Sparrows on frosty mornings in early spring, with later the ringing notes of the Fox Sparrows added. Near-by meadows and an adjacent swamp and river compose an area which is a favorite place for the sparrows. Goldenrods and other field flowers furnish the seeds which are so attractive to them. One day they discovered my newly-planted shrub border. When I noticed a few sparrows hunting there for seeds, I filled an empty feeder and also strewed seeds on the ground. The birds were grateful. They brought their friends. Six White-crowned Sparrows, a species which we had never seen in the area previously, visited practically all day for a week or more. Four were adult males, with the striking black and white crown pattern. Ever since, this species has visited our feeding station regularly each spring and fall.

I have noticed that the White-crown lives up to his royal crown with very regal actions. He not only looks kingly, but orders all other sparrows to be gone when he chooses to step up to the feeder. It is amusing to see how quickly the others obey and keep their distance—even the English Sparrows. No arguments are offered. I have seen Song Sparrows disagree, but the White-crown is ever well-behaved.

Very early on fall mornings the swamp resounds with the ringing songs of the Song Sparrows, reminding me of early spring. There is, at these times, a thrilling quality of voice which does not seem to be present in late spring or summer. The White-throats do their share of song-producing. Their voices are not loud, and the heavenly notes of their *Oh sweet, Canada, Canada, Canada*, or *Old Sam Peabody* if you will have it so, are just audible as they emerge from the little feathered throats. Flocks of these birds, ranging from twelve to forty in number, or even more, people the hedgerows in October.

The Slate-colored Juncos come by the hundreds. One day you look out the window, and there they are like whirling snowflakes, busily picking up seeds all over the neighborhood. They linger a few days, gradually adding to their numbers, and then as suddenly as they came, disappear for another six months or so.

Spring or fall, it is interesting to walk through the crisp sunshine and watch the little fellows bustling about in the fields and hedgerows. The element of surprise is always prominent. One wonders whether a rarity will turn up and whether former visitors will return to renew the pleasant companionship. A scratching sound in the underbrush is a signal for attention. Could it be one of those handsome ruddy Fox Sparrows? Yes, there he is, almost out of sight, searching industriously among last year's dead leaves. He is completely unaware of being watched. Maybe in a day or two he will come to visit my feeding station.

Indeed, we consider ourselves very fortunate to have such good opportunities for sparrow study in our own back yard. We have had as many as

twenty-six White-crowns at one time. White-throats and Fox Sparrows, Savannahs and Vespers, all have come, as well as the more common Song and Chipping Sparrows. We were honored last year by the presence of two Lincoln's Sparrows for several days. We are hopeful of their return this spring. Recently, during the winter, a lone Tree Sparrow came to stay for a few days. Oddly, he seemed to pick out the sunflower seeds to eat. These seeds seem to be more attractive to the birds than many realize, for most of our little visitors make away with them first. We have felt quite lonesome since our Tree Sparrow departed, but we console ourselves with the thought that within a few weeks the ringing cadences of many migrating sparrows will once again resound through the chill spring air.

A May Morning

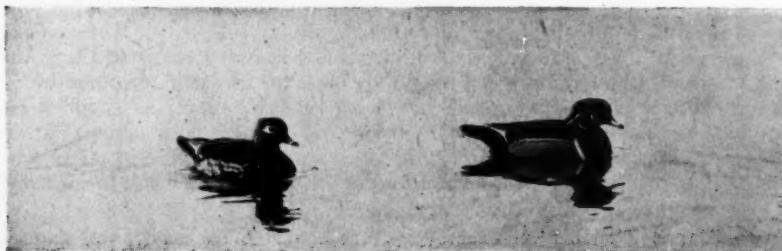
By M. W. CAMPBELL

Down in the swamp at the foot of our woods in Waban the Red-winged Blackbirds are calling; coming up the path we hear a Wood Thrush; in the big bird bath a Blue Jay is splashing; and the little bath in the garden is filled by a Robin trying to get wet from top to toe. Under the barberry bush in the corner a Towhee is scratching vigorously; a Catbird is swinging on the bittersweet vine just above the hanging feeding board outside my kitchen window, waiting for me to give her some raisins; and on the board is a flock of White-throated Sparrows and a pair of Song Sparrows. On the brick path below the board, where I have thrown some seeds, a Chipping Sparrow, more White-throats, and the inevitable House Sparrows are vying with the Chipmunk who is stuffing his cheeks with sunflower seeds. Suddenly the board is emptied as a pair of Cowbirds land and the male spreads his wings, lowers his head, and "screams" at the sparrows.

In the cherry tree a Rose-breasted Grosbeak calls; the little circular feeder, where I put only sunflower seeds, is occupied by a female Purple Finch placidly shelling seeds, while on the roof above her a male, in all his lovely rose, his crest erected, is fluttering his wings and singing to attract her attention. Eating suet from the suet holder, suspended below the feeder, is a Downy Woodpecker.

In the box just outside my pantry window sits my friendly enemy, the Gray Squirrel, eating bread crusts, and from the top of the tallest tree the Brown Thrasher goes through his amazing repertoire.

All this I see and hear as I do my breakfast dishes.



ALLAN D. CRUICKSHANK

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Reviews of Recent Acquisitions

WATER, LAND, AND PEOPLE. By Bernard Frank and Anthony Netboy. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. New York. 1950. 331 pages and Index. \$4.00.

The critical shortage of water in the larger cities and also for agricultural operations during recent years reveals the necessity of studying the problems of water supply, pollution abatement, and water conservation, and of doing something constructive about them without delay. We are fortunate in having such a study brought to us in readable form in *Water, Land, and People*.

The way in which water is used has profound effect upon the land. Likewise, the way in which we treat the land affects directly and indirectly the quality and quantity of our water supply. Both determine the welfare of the people.

Land and water have long been regarded as inexhaustible resources. Early settlers of this country, with no precedent to guide them, wasted both. The lack of conservation measures over the past three hundred years has brought us to the point where "desperate problems need desperate remedies," and billions of dollars are being invested by the government — wisely in some cases, unwisely in others — on curative measures. Many such measures have been unrelated, with consequent failure to reach the source of the trouble and a waste of public funds. Government agencies compete for the chance to control and use water in their own way, their work overlapping and often with little consideration for other natural resources that might be adversely affected.

The early chapters of this book deal with the nation's water supply, its effect on plant life and vice versa, watersheds, and what happens to water when man abuses the land through such malpractices as overgrazing, clear-cutting of forests, cultivation of land better adapted for grass or trees, and improper location of highways. A brief section is devoted to Water

Economics, the tremendous amounts of water needed for various purposes, and the cost of securing and maintaining a pure supply.

Two thirds of *Water, Land, and People* is given to discussing the solution of the water problem from the standpoint of Engineering, Land Use, and Development of River Basins. The TVA approach is analyzed, with comment on its successes and also on its shortcomings, as well as other more recently proposed River Basin developments like the Missouri and the Columbia. Throughout the book the need is stressed for a co-ordinated and correlated watershed approach rather than development on a piecemeal basis by sometimes co-operative but, unfortunately, more often by conflicting agencies. The concluding chapter, "Now Is The Time," points out the need of greater knowledge for effective planning, the main obstacles to such planning through public apathy and ignorance, the social control of land use, public ownership of critical areas, the serving of the public interest by government agencies, and the alteration of cultural patterns to meet the changing times.

In the words of the authors, "Victory in the battle for conservation will be in sight only when Americans become aware of the imperative need for using their natural resources wisely, when they develop deep solicitude about the land handed down to them, however impaired by previous generations. Much that is now wrong with our solutions to waste problems will be in a fair way toward correction only when this attitude becomes widespread."

Excellent appendices and a selective bibliography, as well as a list of the watershed research centers in the United States, are valuable additions to this book. Bernard Frank, with his long experience in government conservation work, and Anthony Netboy, writer and editor, have combined to present here a challenge to the American people concerning water con-

BOOKS — CURRENT AND GOOD

*Great American Nature Writing	\$5.00	Traveler's Guide to Roadside Wild Flowers, Shrubs, and Trees of U. S. A. \$3.00 Kathryn S. Taylor. Describes over 700 plants in flower.
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A Natural History of the Trees 5.00		Robin Redbreast 4.00 David Lack.
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Maurice Broun.		

*No Discount

Reviews of Recent Acquisitions, Continued

servation that needs to be widely read and discussed.

C. RUSSELL MASON

WHERE TO FIND BIRDS IN MINNESOTA. Compiled by Kenneth D. Morrison and Josephine Daneman Herz. Itasca Press, St. Paul. 1950. 122 pages, 5 maps. \$1.50.

This excellent little volume was compiled with the co-operation of some fifty active bird-watchers, and took about two years in its preparation. In the foreword it is stated that "A watcher, in search of a bird, until now, has been strictly on his own. . . . There are now a number of good guides that tell us *how* to identify birds, but nothing so far that deals with *where they are*." The biologists might speak of it as "convergent evolution" or "parallelism," but at the same time this book was in preparation the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia was publishing serially its "Where Birds Live" (see review in our April *Bulletin*) and the Massachusetts Audubon Society was printing my "Guide to Bird-Watching in Massachusetts." Each of these three had the same basic idea, to describe *where* to look for birds, but the treatment naturally varied considerably.

The subtitle of the present publication is "A Guide to 62 Birding Areas, Parks, and Sanctuaries." Minnesota is a big State, more than ten times the size of Massachusetts, and these sixty-two birding areas vary greatly in terrain and therefore in their bird visitors. They also vary in size, from a three-and-a-half-acre private "Bird Sanctuary" to the Red Lake Game Refuge of roughly three hundred square miles, and the still greater Quetico-Superior Wilderness Area on the border between Minnesota and Ontario.

Each birding location is treated under the headings of Directions, Terrain, Van-

tage Points, Groups and Species (less common birds), Restrictions, Hazards, and General, and the name of the local contributor is signed after each article. As my own birding in Minnesota has been limited to the birds seen from a moving train, I can only say that it looks as though the contributors and compilers had done an excellent job, and I recommend this little volume to anyone planning a trip to that State.

The remarks on "Hazards" are unique in bird literature, I think, but extremely pertinent. A few examples: "There are many duck and deer hunters on the area during open seasons"; "Roads not passable in winter or rainy weather"; "Rattlesnakes fairly common among rocks"; "A compass is needed at all times"; "Mosquitoes are bad in June"; and especially "Ask permission to enter pasture; inquire about bull"!

JOHN B. MAY

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BUTTERFLIES OF NORTH AMERICA, EAST OF THE GREAT PLAINS. By Alexander B. Klots. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. 1951. xvi, 349 pages. 247 paintings by Marjorie Statham and 232 photographs by Florence Longworth. \$3.75.

The author, the illustrators, and the publisher of this new volume of the Peterson Field Guide Series are to be congratulated on their joint "hitting the bull's-eye," and I predict that this book will be the companion of many, many bird-watchers on future birding trips. It is authoritative and comprehensive and at the same time written in a style which holds the interest of the amateur entomologist better than any other "scientific" insect book of which this reviewer has knowledge.

The book, of pocket-size, covers all of North America from the northern limit of vegetation and insects to the Florida

NEW BOOKS

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*A Field Guide to the Butterflies	3.75	There's Always Adventure	4.00
Alexander Klots. Illustrated with color paintings of 247 species by Marjorie Statham and photographs of 191 species by Florence Longworth.		Grace E. Barstow. The story of a naturalist's wife.	

Reviews of Recent Acquisitions, Continued

Keys and the Texas-Mexico border, and from the Atlantic west to the 100th meridian, or the edge of the Great Plains. Every species recorded within this area has been included, even though it has been recorded only once or twice, and every butterfly of importance has been illustrated, more than half of them in accurate color reproduction.

Chapter headings include How to Use This Book; Collecting and Preserving Specimens; The Butterfly and Its Environment; Life Histories and Growth; and Classification. Appendices include Some Principles of Classification; Butterfly Literature and Collections, and a Check-List which alone takes eighteen pages of fine print. A novelty in such books is the "Index to Larval Food Plants."

Professor Klots stresses the need of more and more life history studies, and he gives us whenever possible a brief summary of recently acquired knowledge. After the common and scientific names of a species there is usually a paragraph of general information about the species, such as its abundance, habits of flight, etc., and distinguishing features. There follow sub-headings of Similar Species; Larva; Food; Range; and Subspecies. Especial attention is drawn to the *differences* between subspecies or similar-appearing species, for quick identification. Though it is many years since I gave up my boyhood "butterfly collecting," I have never completely lost my interest in their life histories, and it seems to me that this book covers just about everything that the amateur will want to know about his butterfly neighbors.

Perhaps because I am not a serious-minded closet naturalist, I like the "light touch" even in my natural history books. Professor Klots has a delightfully humorous way of treating his material, which keeps the vast amount of information which he has at his finger tips from being too dry and "technical" for the layman entomologist. A few quotations may show what I mean.

Of the "White Mountain Butterfly," *Oeneis melissa*, he comments "Because of a good motor road, Mt. Washington in early July is one place where anyone can catch an *Oeneis*." Of the Jutta Arctic he writes, "When you have chased one through a bog sinking to your knees at every step in saturated sphagnum moss, hurdling small tamaracks and black spruces, and dodging around larger ones, tripping over clumps of heaths, and boring through a cloud of bloodthirsty blackflies, you have earned your specimen—if you catch it." "The Swarthy Skipper is distinguished chiefly by the lack of distinguishing characteristics. . . If you have a specimen that looks as neutral, dull, drab, and undistinguished as possible, think of *Pherminier!*" "The larval stage has become specialized, biologically speaking, as the *nutritive* part of a butterfly's life cycle. Undisturbed by thoughts of sex or travel, (in fact, undisturbed by thoughts) a larva eats, and eats, and then eats some more." The Early Hairstreak "should be sought (and never expected) along rather shaded trails and 'woodroads' in Canadian Zone forest where Beech trees occur."

His treatment of what he terms the "splitters" and the "lumpers" among modern taxonomists strikes my most sympathetic chord. As when he writes of the Dorcas Copper which "cannot always be separated from dark *helleoides* (*florus*) especially when one does not look at the locality labels!" Or "You may find the Monarch referred to as *Anosia*, *Danaus*, or *Diogas*, *archippus*, *plexippus* or (southern) *nigripennis*. His androconia doubtless smell just as sweet to his lady, no matter what you call him." Of the tribe of the Zebras he remarks "Not only are the Heliconians mimicked by dozens of species of butterflies and even moths of many families, but they mimic each other! . . . This makes it easier for predators to learn to leave all *Heliconius* alone but drives the entomologist crazy when he tries to classify the various forms." And he quotes Lindsey, Ball, and Williams as say-

TIMELY GUIDE BOOKS

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Margaret Armstrong.	Roy Waldo Miner.
Field Book of American Trees and Shrubs .. 3.95	
F. Schuyler Mathews.	

Reviews of Recent Acquisitions, Continued

ing, "Genera must be separated by a combination of scientific methods and intuition which only a systematic entomologist can appreciate."

We have most of us been brought up to worry about the great variety and astronomical numbers of our insect neighbors, and to learn that some species of butterflies, like some birds, are either recently extinct or threatened with early extinction, comes as something of a surprise. The Atala Hairstreak "has been common in southern Florida, but at present is either extremely rare or extinct. The last records I know of are specimens taken about 1933. . . . The reasons for this decrease are not known. . . . The larvae of a moth . . . were harmful competitors with *atala* for food, and also were somewhat cannibalistic. The 1926 hurricane also hurt *atala* considerably. Perhaps overenthusiastic collecting played a part." Again regarding Schaus' Swallowtail: "First found in the Brickell Hammock of Miami, Florida . . . it was exterminated there by the city's growth. Rediscovered in the Florida Keys it became known as our most desirable *Papilio*, as much as \$150 having been paid for a pair. When the colony on Lower Matacumbe Key was wiped out by the 1938 hurricane, *ponceanus* was believed extinct. Later, however, it was found elsewhere on the Keys; and during the 1940s it built up slowly in numbers. Now, overcollecting by 'game hog' collectors has again reduced its numbers in its last stand." Will the Audubon Societies have to include "Protection of Vanishing Butterflies" among their major activities? If so, this *Field Guide to the Butterflies* may be as indispensable as we have long found Peterson's *Field Guide to the Birds*.

JOHN B. MAY

AMERICAN WILD FLOWERS. By Harold N. Moldenke. D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc. New York, Toronto, London. 1949. xxv, 453 pages. 32 color plates, 32 in black and white. \$6.95.

This is, I believe, the first of a series of books to be published under the title of "The New Illustrated Naturalist." During its preparation questionnaires were sent to more than 1100 naturalists and botanists of the United States and Canada, asking them to list the twelve "showiest, most conspicuous, and most interesting wild herbaceous plants of their area most likely to be encountered by the nature-loving traveler." More than half the questionnaires were filled out and returned, and more than a thousand different plants were nominated in the poll. "Virtually all of the nominations made in the poll have been treated, and . . . an approximately equal number of plants has been added. In all, 2050 species, varieties and named forms are treated. In addition, many others are merely mentioned incidentally." This gives some faint idea of the scope of the present volume.

Each chapter is devoted to one or more families of flowers, and each genus has a paragraph or more to itself. For example, all the *columbines* (*Aquilegia*) are treated together on pages 10 and 11, largely by geographical distribution. After a condensed description of the "wild columbine, *A. canadensis*" it goes on "In calcareous soil on cliffs and bluffs of the Gulf coastal plain from Florida to Texas occurs the large-flowered southern columbine, *A. australis*; and north and west of the coastal plain, from southern Ontario to Alabama, Texas and Nebraska, is found the scarlet columbine, *A. coccinea*. In the Rocky Mountains of Colorado and New Mexico these are replaced by the very similar *A. elegantula*, and on the prairies and plains from Minnesota and the Dakotas to Iowa and Kansas, by *A. latiuscula*. From Utah and California to Alaska is found *A. formosa* with red and yellow flowers 1½ inches across."

This method of treatment is rather confusing to a plain ornithologist. Living among New England wild flowers, there

REVIEWS, Continued

is a great deal included which is of little value to me. If I visit Kansas or California, I must read through a lot of information not pertinent to the flowers I am trying to identify. And it seems to me that the author takes for granted a considerable knowledge of a great many plants on the part of his reader. I confess that I had never even heard of "The kuteeragum family, *Cochlospermaceae*," and without an illustration of the family I am still at sea as to what it looks like. Would I recognize it, if I found a specimen, from the following brief description, which is all one has to go by? Dr. Moldenke says only that the family "is a very small and rather insignificant one, comprising 2 genera and only 13 species, mostly of tropical regions. Two of these occur in Arizona and are among that state's showiest plants. *Amoreuxia palmatifida* produces short, flowering stems from large, tuberlike roots, smooth long-stalked leaves that are palmately lobed or parted, and large, somewhat irregular, orange flowers in few-flowered terminal racemes. The flowers have all save their lowest petal marked with 1 or 2 large red spots. *A. wrightii* has the leaves hairy on the lower veins and produces larger and hairier fruits."

There is a great deal of interesting material, however, included in this volume and it makes good reading that stimulates one's wanderlust. So many beautiful flowers one has never seen! The illustrations are excellent but are all too few. Eighty-eight plants are illustrated from color photographs and sixty-nine in gravure, but 157 illustrations are disappointingly few for a book of this scope, especially as several species are shown twice, in space which might well have been given to something different.

There is considerable discussion, in the Introduction, of *common names* and their reason, but no explanation which I could find of the author's choice of scientific names, which often differ markedly from those in the recent edition of Gray's Manual. Do the botanists lack a Committee on Nomenclature such as has standardized procedures for the ornithologists?

John B. May

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From Our Correspondence

An Appreciation

"I have just read your December *Bulletin*, and feel happier than ever that you gave me a chance to contribute to your magazine. This is so well filled with such a variety of good material that I wish you came out with an issue every two weeks."

George Dock, Jr.
New York, N. Y.

The Grosbeaks Return

"We had four Evening Grosbeaks come here to our feeder February 16, three males, one female. What a surprise, after all the weeks of expecting we might have some, and then beginning to think it too late, to have them fly in. When they didn't come back yesterday I thought they had gone on, but they were here again this A. M. (February 18, 1951), and for almost two hours, just feeding, and then perching in near-by trees . . .

"Last Monday we were fortunate enough to see the Lark Bunting at Newbury; got him from all angles (what a thrill!), and have seen two Mockingbirds, one in Newbury, one in Newburyport . . . We saw two Bald Eagles (February 3), plus the flock of eighty or more Snow Buntings — Plum Island — both, wonderful to see."

Mrs. Lionel Sheppard, Sr.
Ipswich

A Temperamental Pet

"The other morning I was in a hurry when I went into the birds' room to release them and give each one his breakfast meal-worm. Instead of choosing carefully and making sure that Moses (a Rose-breasted Grosbeak) was, if not the first, at least the second in line, I shoved a worm into whichever beak was handiest, and I didn't realize till the fourth bird shrieked and broke away from the group that Moses was last in line. And he couldn't take it! Or rather he wouldn't take it. I followed him from room to room, and as I drew near he would whistle sharply and dart away. Finally I cornered him and dangled a fat worm right in front of him. His crest rose and fell, his eyes blinked rapidly, and he gathered himself together for another spring into the air, then seemed to think better of it, and merely turned his head away. I followed the turn of his head with the juicy tidbit, but that was adding insult to injury. Quick as a flash he grabbed the worm, dashed it on the floor, screamed at the top of his lungs and literally burst in my face, or so it seemed

to me. Anyway, it took me an hour to find him — he was hiding behind a can of boysenberries on the shelf — and another half hour to pacify him.

After that, I couldn't get rid of him, he was too, *too* nice! Ask my husband if I am exaggerating. We have gone through this, with Moses, many many times."

Ada Clapham Govan
Woodland Bird Sanctuary,
Lexington, Mass.

A "Crazy" Grouse

"Previously I have described the interesting behavior of a female Ruffed Grouse that frequented our wooded driveway off and on for some years. This March she, or her descendant, has returned. She is strongly attracted by Bill, a woodsman who has been splitting logs beside the driveway. She hung around him, and even placed herself between the log he was working on and his axe. Bill and his friend Dave were chopping together as I drove by in a car, and the partridge was running about between them. They signaled me to stop. Bill whistled softly to her, and she jumped onto his wrist, where she seemed to feel quite at home. One morning I passed the three again, and at sight of the car the partridge left the men and chased me. I had to put on speed to get away from her. The men think it may be the noise of the axe on the steel wedge that appeals to her, and the hum of the automobile."

Mrs. John Richardson
Milton, Massachusetts.

An Embarrassed Cat

"Perhaps you will be interested in this little tale. Yesterday morning the jays were making a racket. We looked out. In our neighbor's back yard there is a large apple tree. Their black coon cat was in the tree huddled on a large low branch. Above him all over the tree were dozens of birds. Jays, grackles, robins, sparrows, that is all I identified.

"They were telling the cat off in no uncertain terms, for several minutes. Then having finished, one by one they flew off, the big birds first and finally the sparrows, leaving the cat alone. Then he came down and the tree was empty.

"I never saw anything like it before. The tree was just filled with birds—and one cat! He never moved until they were all gone."

Elizabeth K. Riemer
West Roxbury, Mass.



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Coming Events at the Berkshire Museum

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

May

- May 1-31. Lithographs of World War I. By Jeane Louis Forain.
 May 1-31. "How Museum Exhibits are Prepared." Photographs by W. J. Schoonmaker.
 May 17-19. Town Players present "Yes, My Darling Daughter."
 May 19. 6:30 P. M. Annual Meeting and Dinner, Berkshire Museum Camera Club.

News of Bird Clubs

Officers of the HOFFMANN BIRD CLUB, of Pittsfield, recently elected for the 1951-52 season were: Bartlett Hendricks, president; T. Lyle Keith, vice-president; Miss Edna Dunbar, recording secretary; Mrs. Wilbur Comstock, corresponding secretary; John C. Musgrove, treasurer; and Mrs. Leonard E. Sweitzer and Alvah W. Sanborn, the retiring president, were elected members of the Executive Committee.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

Tammy Chipmunk and His Friends	\$1.50	An Introduction to Birds	\$2.50
		Gertrude E. Allen.		John Kieran.	
Kildee House	2.50	Ruby Throat	2.00
		Rutherford Montgomery.		Robert McClung.	
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From Our Correspondence, Continued

A Plea for the Wood Duck

I have written to the Editor of the Boston Globe substantially as follows:—

"Nature Lover," of Harvard, Mass., it seems to me has placed before your readers the reason why complete protection for the Wood Duck was voted by the General Court six years ago and should not now be withdrawn at the request of the Fish and Game Division, when writing, "Every spring a pair of Wood Ducks come here and build their nest in a hollow branch of a huge buttonwood tree on the front lawn of our farm. I spend many enjoyable moments watching them swim in our pond. They are 'a thing of beauty,' and I feel they are still in need of protection."

To the lovers of the Wood Duck it is pleasant to notice that there are more Wood Duck now than when this protection was voted. I do not think that this increase justifies a withdrawal of the protection, since it was not because of the scarcity of the bird that we asked protection but because of its exceptional beauty and exceptional tameness, often nesting near houses, and these latter facts continue. There is scarcely more excitement in shooting a domestic pigeon — one is about as hard to hit as the other. Nor is it a good argument, it seems to me, that the Wood Duck is pleasant to taste, since that is also true of our Robin and our Meadowlark, but the Middlesex County Sportsmen would, I believe, disavow any desire to have these two latter birds appear for sale, as they did 150 years ago, in Faneuil Hall Market.

ROBERT WALCOTT

Wise Old Jimmy

"My March *Bulletin* came yesterday. I have not had time to read it all but the article, 'Do Dumb Animals Reason?' caught my eye, and one of the experiences which we have had with Skunks came to mind.

"In the Spring we watch for the Skunks as we do for *Hyla crucifer*, but we did not have one come into the yard until March 28th of last year. I had gone down to the mailbox around our curving driveway, and when I returned the biggest Skunk I ever saw was standing on our cement walk at the back door.

"I called, 'Hello Jimmy, I'm glad to see you back.' With that salutation Jimmy ambled off to the lawn and nosed about under the oak trees. He was still around, just like a pet dog, when my husband, 'Strick,' drove into the yard for lunch.

When Strick came in he said, 'I see one of our Skunks is back.'

"As I was moving about I noticed that Jimmy had come to the back door and had contrived to fall into the window-well. I spoke to Strick about it and he said casually, 'Well, he will be all right until I finish my lunch.' So after lunch, as I was doing my dishes by the window (which is directly over the 'well') I saw Strick go out to the garage and come back with a broad shovel with a very short handle. As the window-well is deep, this meant that my husband would have to stoop right over Jimmy in order to get him out. I wasn't looking, but I was listening, and soon I heard Strick say, 'That's the boy; you're a smart guy,' in tones of deepest admiration.

"Well, Jimmy ambled off again, and my husband came in all smiles, and burst out 'Would you believe a Skunk would know enough to do that?' I lifted my brows and he went on, 'When I first put the shovel down in the end, Jimmy was puzzled, but just for a moment, then he walked right onto it, and to keep from slipping back he clasped his front paws around the handle.'

"I said, 'Oh, you're kidding.' He was a bit indignant, and came back, 'No, I'm not.'

"But here is the part that amused me most. After the rescue I heard Strick say, 'What are you stamping your feet for? You mad at me after I got you out?'

"Strick wanted to know how I interpreted that. I said, 'Jimmy said "Now, don't get the idea that you are going to ride me around the neighborhood on this thing!"'

"Since that experience we have learned that Jimmy stamps his feet as a warning. Of course we knew that must have been what he meant."

Sincerely,

Laurel Strickland
(Laurel of Harmony Hill)

Evening Grosbeak Recovery

Mrs. Ada Clapham Govan writes us from her "Woodland Bird Sanctuary" in Lexington that she has had another EVENING GROSBEAK recovery from eastern Canada. Constable J. E. L. Raymond, of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, informed Mr. Claude LaFrance, of St. Benoit de la Corne, Abitibi County, Quebec, that a female Evening Grosbeak was shot about twenty miles south of Amos, Quebec, on November 2, 1950. The bird had been banded by Mrs. Govan on April 21, 1950.

Field Notes

Miss Elizabeth Ball reports from Rutland, Vermont, that her rarest birds of the winter were four RED CROSSBILLS at Orwell, December 20, five BLACK-BACKED GULLS at Burlington, December 31 (first noted by Dr. Marguerite Kingsbury), and three RED-THROATED LOONS on Lake Champlain, January 1.

Eighteen BALD EAGLES were counted at Quabbin Reservoir on February 26 by Leslie Campbell, who, with D. K. Sampson, also saw an ICELAND GULL there on February 5.

Miss Alice E. Hanson records an ICELAND GULL in the Fenway near the Art Museum in Boston, March 15, when the SHOVELLER which has been seen there since December was still present.

S. A. Sargent watched a MIGRANT SHRIKE singing from a telephone wire in Needham on March 21, and comments that it was unlike any song he had ever heard previously.

Mrs. Ise Gropius, of South Lincoln, sends us an interesting list of birds seen near her home: Fox Sparrow, March 3; Woodcock, March 12; Bluebird, March 14; Meadowlark, March 21; Cowbird, March 22; Phoebe, March 28; and Tree Swallow, March 31. She also reports a Red-shouldered Hawk, March 16; a Red-tail the same day and still present March 25, when it was being attacked by a resident pair of Red-shoulders; a Rough-legged Hawk circling over a field on March 28.

Mrs. Roger T. Wallace reports a WHITE-THROATED SPARROW singing in the lilac bush in her garden in Hyde Park on April 10.

Elmer P. Foye writes that for many years the feeding station of Mrs. Grace Conley on South Main Street in Topsfield was a mecca for bird-watchers, and that now the near-by feeding station of Clayton F. Rock on Prospect Street continues to attract birds. The first EVENING GROSBEAKS, numbering over thirty, appeared on March 2 and fed throughout the month. More than seventy PURPLE FINCHES and thirty-five or more GOLDFINCHES, three GROUSE, and other winter residents have been seen. Birders are welcome to visit and see these "real squirrel-proof" feeding stations.

Last summer a pair of CARDINALS nested in a dooryard in Westville, Connecticut. The same birds had spent the previous winter there. They brought two young to the feeder daily until September, when the young birds left. The adults wintered there again this year.

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Field Notes

Mrs. Harold C. Vandemeer, of Hingham, writes that a WHITE-THROATED SPARROW has wintered at her feeding station; a FOX SPARROW appeared there, December 19, and stayed a week, and the next Fox Sparrows appeared, one on March 8, two on March 9, and six on March 10. Her Tree Sparrows disappeared March 7.

Miss Margaret Roys, of Woodbury, Connecticut, writes that she has seen BLUE-BIRDS around off and on all winter. On January 31, with the thermometer hovering around zero and fine snow in the air, she watched one eating Euonymus berries, and it or another visited her feeding tray briefly. Then they all seemed to disappear for about three weeks.

Dr. John B. May reports a dense raft of one hundred or more AMERICAN EIDERS just outside the entrance to Little Harbor, Cohasset, and another in the lee of Black Rock, both on March 10. Mrs. Richard Chute writes that on March 11 she and her son Dickie saw a beautiful drake KING EIDER in a flock of about 250 American Eiders just off their rocks in Cohasset. The flock was on top of a large mussel bed and was busy diving.

On March 25 a flock of about twenty-five TREE SWALLOWS was observed as they were hawking for insects over a cranberry bog near South Carver by Dr. May.

On their fourth annual March bird census Quabbin Bird Club members listed fifty-one species, including such interesting birds as two ICELAND GULLS, seven BALD EAGLES, and several species of hawks and of ducks; they also saw the first Woodchucks for 1951. Fifteen members of the Club took part in the census.

A BRONZED GRACKLE visited the feeder of Mrs. Paul Burrage in Weston this winter, eating suet and doughnuts, the latter being its favorite food. For a time it ate one doughnut a day. The bird was last seen on January 23.

Lester R. Spaulding, of Middleboro, writes that on March 31, while in Wareham, he checked to see if the Herring were running in the river and he saw a VIRGINIA RAIL running along under the bank.

Mrs. Bertram Wellman sends us an interesting count of raptures in the Sudbury Valley and Concord region, all seen during March, and including 8 SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS, 8 RED-TAILS; 167 RED-SHOULDERS; 1 BALD EAGLE at Concord, March 25, and another at Wayland, March 28; 16 MARSH HARRIERS; and a TURKEY VULTURE at Wayland, March 26.

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Field Notes

Mrs. Clara deWindt, in the midst of getting her new property in condition in Newburyport, has had an opportunity to see many birds coming to her newly installed feeding stations. She looks forward to having a real influx during the spring migration. She had her first small flock of GRACKLES and RED-WINGS feeding in the yard on March 4, and her first ROBIN arrived the 16th. Included in her early visitors were a RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH and a BROWN CREEPER.

EVENING GROSBEAKS were noteworthy this year in New England, chiefly because of the small numbers reported. One of the best flocks found in Massachusetts came to the feeding station of C. F. Rock, in Topsfield, on March 10—twenty in number. Mr. Rock has also had a large flock of PURPLE FINCHES, more than seventy appearing at one time, which corresponds with the experiences of others throughout the State and indicates a real invasion of Purple Finches this year.

Mrs. Robert Allison, of Athol, reports banding a GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET at her feeder on February 3. RED-POLLS also visited her feeder on four different dates in February.

Dr. John B. May reports that on April 7 he saw two small flocks of OLD-SQUAWS in the breakers off Third Cliff Beach at Scituate, many of which were in full summer plumage. As he watched them, a flock of about forty BRANT flew into his field of vision, wheeled about, and apparently lit a short distance up North River. At Fourth Cliff, Scituate, a good-sized flock of AMERICAN EIDERS was still lingering.

On March 1, while driving along the causeway between Lynn and Nahant, Mrs. Donald C. Alexander reports that forty AMERICAN BRANT flew across in front of the car. On March 4 she saw a BROWN THRASHER in the Nahant Thicket (Audubon Sanctuary) but comments that one had previously been seen there, on February 13, by Mrs. Goulds. In Rowley, on March 31, Mrs. Alexander saw four SNOW GESE.

Mrs. C. B. Stanwood, of Belmont, called to say that a HERMIT THRUSH had arrived in her garden on April 10, also that, on the 9th, she noticed a female Robin feeding with the males.

Dr. Oliver L. Austin, Jr., reports seeing an adult LITTLE BLUE HERON in Eastham, at Salt Pond, on April 9.

In Reading, on April 11, Miss Miriam Tilden reports watching a RUFFED GROUSE drumming from within ten feet of the bird.

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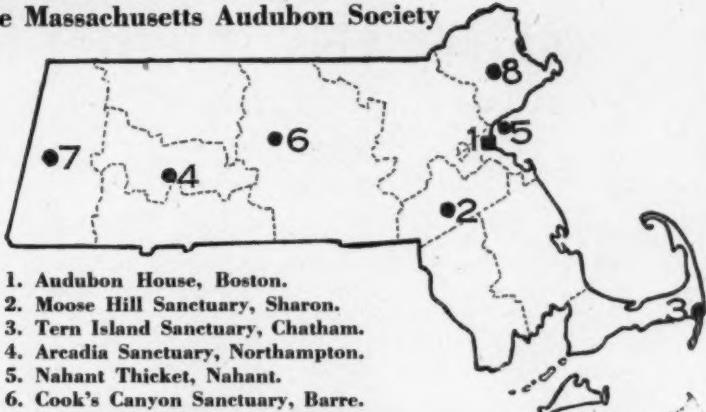
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